MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Syrian Missiles--Jerusalem radio, citing reports by foreign correspondents in Lebanon, reported that Syria has stationed SAM-2 and SAM-6 missiles and has reinforced its air defense system in the Al-Biqa' region. The radio said an IDF spokesman confirmed the presence of the missiles. Jerusalem television said Israel regards the Syrian move as another deliberate crossing of the "red line" and an escalation of the situation. In an interview with Jerusalem radio, former Israeli Air Force Chief Mordekhay Hod said SAM-6 missiles will restrict Israeli air activity over Lebanon and therefore Israel may have no choice but to "handle" them from the air.

Israeli Raids, Southern Shelling--Israeli planes attacked Palestinian targets in the south, Jerusalem radio reported, destroying artillery positions. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio claimed that Palestinian antiaircraft fire downed an Israeli plane. An earlier report by the radio said Syrian Air Force planes had clashed with Israeli planes during the morning of 29 April. Both Voice of Palestine and ITIM reported further shelling in the south during the afternoon, and Jerusalem radio reported that the Palestinians fired several Katyusha rockets into western Galilee. Jerusalem radio said eight people were injured in another Palestinian rocket attack on 30 April.

Zahlah, Sannin Heights--Voice of Lebanon said Zahlah was generally calm but noted that shelling continued on the Sannin heights. Voice of Palestine said Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) and their national movement allies advanced along various axes on the Al-Matn front, southwest of the Sannin heights. The radio said ADF units around Zahlah have linked up with those on the Sannin heights. ADF and leftist forces continued to advance toward 'Uyun as-Siman, the radio said.

Political Developments--After further meetings with Lebanese leaders, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held a news conference, broadcast by Beirut radio, in which he said all the Lebanese parties are determined to end the crisis. He also said he will hold another meeting with President Ilyas Sarkis in the next 2 or 3 days in which they will discuss a working paper outlining practical measures for solving the crisis. The issue of Zahlah did not feature prominently in the talks, Khaddam asserted, but he added that gunmen who have been provoking ADF forces there should leave so that they do not remain an obstacle to a peaceful accord. When the Lebanese parties reach accord, Khaddam noted, the Lebanese Government will act to restore relations between "certain Lebanese parties" and the Palestinian resistance so that everyone can confront the "common enemy," Israel.

Voice of Palestine reported that the Soviet ambassador in Beirut, in an interview with an FRG newspaper, has said the Soviet Union considers the Al-Biqa' plain to be a Syrian security region. The Soviet Union may offer Syria aid in accordance with the Syrian-Soviet friendship treaty, he said, if anyone harms Al-Biqa'. Voice of Lebanon reported that the Phalangist-dominated Lebanese Front's leadership met and discussed the security situation in Zahlah with the three government ministers from the city afterward, the radio reported, the ministers, who include Defense Minister Joseph Skaf, said they will resign unless there is an end to the shelling of Zahlah.

Schmidt Tour

SPA reported that, before leaving Saudi Arabia, FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt held a press conference in Riyadh in which he disclosed that the European initiative for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict will be announced shortly. It will, he said, be based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the need to include the PLO as a party to solving the problem and the right of all states to live within secure and recognized borders.

The PLO attitude toward this last principle will determine the FRG Goverment's attitude toward the PLO, Schmidt said. He warned the West that the more it rejects the stand of the Palestinian people, the more they will look toward the Soviet Union. Chancellor Schmidt revealed that at his request his talks with Saudi leaders had dealt with the export of West German weapons, and he said he will discuss the matter with the FRG parliamentary council. He said important economic issues also had been discussed during the talks, and he praised Saudi Arabia's moderate and balanced oil policy. Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz also spoke to the journalists, SPA reported, indicating that, should the FRG not supply Saudi Arabia with arms, this will have no effect on the development of relations between the two countries. Chancellor Schmidt later flew to Abu Dhabi, GULF NEWS AGENCY reported, where he held talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Liyba-USSR

In a joint communique issued after Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's 27-29 April visit to Moscow, Libya and the Soviet Union rejected the Camp David agreements and the Israel-Egyptian peace treaty, condemned the increasing U.S. Military presence in the Arab region and pledged to take the necessary steps to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The communique, carried textually by Tripoli radio and TASS, also condemned "imperialist" attempts to equate international terrorism with "national liberation movements" Libya and the USSR expressed concern about the situation in Lebanon and Israeli aggression there and rejected attempts to "internationalize" the Lebanese crisis. They also expressed concern about the Iran-Iraq conflict and supported efforts by the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement to help settle it. The two countries pointed out the need for a political settlement in Afghanistan that would guarantee and end to foreign interference. They supported the proposal that Africa, the Middle East and Latin America be declare nuclear-free zones. The communique said the two sides agreed to increase their trade and economic relations and revealed that Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev has accepted an invitation to visit Libya at a date to be decided later. The Yugoslav news agency TANJUG reported that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Belgrade held talks with a delegation led by President of the SFRY Presidency Cvijetin Mijatovic.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Commenting on recent fighting for the Bazi Deraz heights in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, in which Iran has claimed the capture of several strategic hills, Acting Chief of the Iranian Joint Staff Brig Gen Valiollah Fallahi said that despite an attempt Iraqi counteroffensive, Iranian troops have lost no ground, Tehran radio reported. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, on the other hand, claimed that Iraqi troops have gained control of several towns in the region over the last 2 days, have shot down three Iranian fighters in the area and have launched successful bombing raids against Iranian troop concentrations in the Gilan-e Gharb region. Other Tehran radio reports said that Iranian forces downed an Iraqi helicopter in the Dar Ballut region and fired on Iraqi positions in the Dezful region and Khuninshahr.

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HABIB CHATTI QUESTIONED ON GULF WAR MEDIATION

LD291549 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 27 Apr 81 p 11

[Interview granted by Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Habib Chatti to correspondent in Jidda--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What progress has been achieved by the good offices committee mediating between Iraq and Iran and are you still optimistic, as usual?

[Answer] The Islamic Conference Organization has given great attention to finding a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Iranian dispute since it erupted. The Islamic efforts were strengthened with the setting up of the Islamic committee, which is now endeavoring to reach its objective of ending the war between the Iraqi and Iranian brothers and to help them to enter into negotations in order to end their disputes peacefully. I assure you that the committee's peace mission has now entered a positive stage, despite all the difficulties. Both sides have confidence in the committee and have shown their desire for it to continue its efforts to ensure that the Mecca summit resolution is carried out. The committee has now received Iran's reply to additional proposals which I personally carried to Tehran and Baghdad early this month on behalf of the committee. These proposals are an addition to the first peace plan, which was originally announced on 4 March and published in the press. The plan will remain the basis of the committee's work, while the additional proposals in question were included in light of Iraq's and Iran's answers conveyed to the committee before its recent meeting in Jidda at the end of March. We are now waiting for the Iraqi reply to the Islamic peace committee's report.

[Question] What are the most important topics that the conference of Islamic ministers will discuss in Baghdad shortly and has an agreement been reached on the date and agenda of the conference?

[Answer] It has been decided to hold the 12th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference in Baghdad. This was decided at the 11th conference in Islamabad. The date for the Baghdad conference was set as 1 through 6 June and it is to be preceded by preparatory meeting of senior officials on 30 and 31 May. The General Secretariat is now busy preparing for this conference and invitations have been sent to all member states. A draft agenda has also been sent to them which so far includes no fewer than 90 topics, including the topics of Jerusalem, Palestine, and the Middle East, which are permament topics at our conferences. This is in addition to the question of the Iraqi-Iranian dispute, Lebanon, Afghanistan, the problems of the Horn of Africa, the question of the Muslims of the Philippines, cooperation between the Islamic Conference Organization and international and regional organizations, the Islamic information plan and other economic, cultural, financial and various other questions.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY REJECTS KUWAITI LEBANON PROPOSAL

JN291707 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] In Kuwait the paper AL-WATAN quotes informed sources as saying that Syria has informed Kuwait of its rejection of the proposal to hold a roundtable in the Kuwaiti capital for the conflicting sides in Lebanon. This proposal was made earlier by Kuwaiti Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah.

USSR SAID TO CALL AL-BIQA' SYRIAN SECURITY ZONE

NC291410 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1300 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] The Soviet Union has declared through its ambassador in Beirut, Comrade Alexander Soldatov, that Moscow regards the Al-Biqa' plain a security zone for Syria and should anything affect this security zone, the Soviet Union would consider the possiblity of offering aid to Syria in accordance with the Syrian-Soviet friendship treaty. This statement was contained in an interview with Comrade Soldatov by a West German newspaper.

'ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO BREZHNEV ON LEBANON

JN291700 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Brother-Leader Abu 'Ammar received the Soviet charge d'affaires in Beirut today and asked him to convey a message to President Leonid Brezhnev on the recent serious developments following the escalation of the aggressive Israeli military activities against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in southern Lebanon. This aggression is taking place after a U.S. green light was received and has as its intention the annihilation of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The meeting was attended by Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi].

VOP REPORTS SYRIAN GAINS IN SANNIN, ZAHLAH AREAS

NC291427 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] On the Al-Matn front, in spite of the enemy planes' interference in support of the isolationist positions yesterday--particularly following the military defeat they suffered in Sannin heights and in Zahlah ridges opposite 'Uyun as-Siman--the Arab Deterrent and the National Movement Forces have advanced along various axes. Press correspondents have confirmed that the deterrent forces positions on Zahlah ridges had linked up with the Sannin heights, which have been liberated from Phalangist control. While the battles were continuing in Tallat al-Mazar, it was reported that the Arab Deterrent Forces were now in control of the hills overlooking Himlaya and Bikfayya hills.

On the Zahlah axis, the Arab Deterrent and the Lebanese National Forces have continued their advance toward 'Uyun as-Siman. It was reported that the Phalangist elements were driven away from five hills and that fighting was in progress on the ridges around 'Uyun as-Siman.

VOP VIEWS SOLUTION IN LEBANON, U.S. INVOLVEMENT

Solution Criterion

JN291910 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1635 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers: If Lebanon is actually in the process of opening the dossier of accord and if it is seriously attempting to find a solution to its continuing crisis, the most prominent and important condition for such a solution is to end the special relationship between the isolationist forces and the Zionist entity, a relationship which is not confined to material and moral aid but goes beyond that to actual participation [words indistinct] the Israeli political and military impact on the side of the isolationist forces, which can no longer be considered independent from the Zionist enemy but as an organic extension for it in Lebanon and a basic tool of its executive tools in Lebanon.

The Zionist planes came to Lebanon's airspace and raided several areas not to achieve a tactical military aim or to carry out the play of alleged Israeli support for the Christians, but in order to place the Israeli conditions for a solution on the Lebanese arena. These are conditions which mean, as we have learned through experience, the capitulation of all to the Zionist will or the continuation of war directly through the Zionist army or indirectly through the agent militias, which have historically, objectively and practically constituted the local cover for the Israeli war on the Lebanese arena.

The intensive and successive Israeli military operations in the south and in Al-Biqa' have created new factors that will largely influence the chances of solving the Lebanese crisis on comprehensive bases, because the blatant Israeli (?interruption of) the political process which began in the Republican Palace yesterday was like a clamorous warning made by the Zionist leadership, which yesterday held a war council that looked like a field operations room to follow the dialogues being held on the Lebanese arena and to impose a Zionist fait accompli on these dialogues. The Zionist leadership is wagering on this, believing that it will give it the chance to get its share in Lebanon and to enlarge its agents' share.

U.S. Responsibility

NC300945 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 30 Apr 81

[29 April statement by "responsible" PLO information source--read by announcer]

[Text] Commenting on yesterday's statement by the U.S. State Department spokesman that the United States has not given the green light to Israel to begin its military operations in Lebanon, we would like to affirm the following:

The United States historically shoulders the responsibility for the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples. This responsibility is irrefutable in evidence and facts. We would like to emphasize that in Reagan's era, the U.S. administration is not satisfied with the established U.S. policy of supporting Israel, but arrogantly declares that it encourages and finds justification for the Zionist war of extermination of the Palestinian people. This has been stated by more than one official of the department, the most recent being [as received] National Security Adviser Richard Allen, who declared in the presence of the enemy's foreign minister that Israel was entitled to make the hot military pursuit against the Palestinian people, thereby giving the U.S. green light to a war of extermination of our Palestinian people.

The PLO holds the United States fully responsible, now and in the long-term, for the consequences of the war of extermination not only of the Palestinian people and their revolution but also of the Lebanese people and their national forces. At the same time it urges all world peoples and states and all its friends to take steps immediately to stop Israel's plot and aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, in which it uses the most modern U.S. arms.

KUWAIT

WESTERN POWERS ASKED TO PRESSURE ISRAEL ON LEBANON

LD291404 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1227 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Apr (KUNA) Kuwait today asked the three Western powers to stop the Israeli attacks on Lebanon, and warned that the explosive situation in that Arab country threatens peace in the Middle East and the world. Foreign Ministry under secretary Rashid ar-Rashid said he communicated this appeal to the ambassadors of the United States, France and Britain when he summoned them to his office and met them separately. He told journalists he will meet the Soviet ambassador tomorrow for the same purpose. He said he discussed with the Western diplomats the development of the situation in Lebanon and the danger of Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and on the Arab peacekeeping force in Lebanon which consists of Syrian soldiers. Rashid ar-Rashid was referring to the Israeli air raids and shelling on southern Lebanon, and the downing of two Syrian helicopters by Israeli fighters over Lebanese territory yesterday.

The Kuwaiti official said his country takes a grave view of Israeli aggression which seeks to escalate the situation and to frustrate Kuwait's initiative, proposed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, to convene a roundtable conference to be attended by the parties to the conflict and to be hosted by Kuwait. These attacks also seek to kill the Syrian initiative embodied in the visit to Beirut by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to find a solution to the crisis.

He said he requested the three Western powers to observe and follow up the gravity of these attacks and to try to halt Israel's wilfullness. He added Kuwait and Syria jointly wish to establish peace and national unity and safeguard Lebanon's independence. Shaykh ar-Rashid accused Israel of working against the unity of Lebanon and against restoring amity and accord in Lebanon. He said he also asked the Western powers to shoulder their responsibilities toward this explosive situation which threatens the area and threatens world peace.

OMAN

OFFICIAL WELCOMES MEDIATION EFFORTS WITH PDRY

JN290939 Doha QNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Apr (QNA)--Omani Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Yusuf al-'Alawi said in a statement published here today that his country would give all possible support to the success of the first summit meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi at the end of next month in order to give it more impetus toward achieving its aims of creating an integrated coordination among the states in the area which will prevent the intervention of other countries in their affairs and independence.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, Al-'Alawi welcomed on behalf of his country the mediation efforts of the UAE and Kuwait between the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY and expressed the hope that this mediation will lead to a solution between the two countries. He said that the final signing of the border agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the Ra's al-Khaymah Emirate which was recently declared will take place after the maps of the land and sea borders between the two countries are made.

SAUDI ARABIA

SCHMIDT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE DEPARTING

LD291052 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0850 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Apr (SPA)--Federal German Chancellor Herr Helmut Schmidt has expressed his total satisfaction with the results of his visit to the kingdom and his talks with Saudi leaders and senior officials. He said the main results of this visit are reaffirmation of the friendly relations that exist between the two countries, the desire of both sides to improve cooperation between them at the bilateral and international levels, and to continue the development of their vast common interests in all sectors--political, security, economic and cultural. This was said at a press conference which the German chancellor gave this morning at the Palace of Congress in Riyadh prior to his departure at the end of a 3-day official visit to the kingdom. His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, participated in the press congress, which was also attended by Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani and a number of Saudi and German officials.

The German chancellor began his press conference by expressing his thanks and that of the delegation accompanying him, to his majesty the king, the crown prince and the government of the kingdom for the generous welcome received during the visit to the kingdom. He said his visit to the kingdom proceeded along the lines dictated by his country's relations with the kingdom ever since he visited the country 5 years ago, that is: realizing closer cooperation between the two countries on the basis of confidence and common interest. He noted that his talks in Riyadh consisted of exchanging views in a more intensified and concentrated manner, not only between leaders but also between the officials in the economic and cultural fields. He described relations between the two countries as excellent, first-class relations between two partners, both in the political and economic field.

He continued by saying the exchange of views and information between the two sides included international issues of interest to the two sides including safeguarding peace and stability in Europe, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The kingdom showed great interest in developments in East and West Europe, and the German side showed similar interest in developments in the area both from the economic and security aspects.

Chancellor Schmidt said the talks between the two sides dealt with the region's security problems, particularly in view of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He said: We attach great importance in this connection to the establishment of the Gulf Coordination Council. He added: The Federal German Government's appraisal of its development policy toward the two Yemens will depend on what His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has submitted in this regard.

Regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, Schmidt said: We have pointed out to the United States the great importance of finding a solution to this problem. I outlined the EEC's policy in this connection--a policy which has been in existence since 1973 and which has found a positive response in the kingdom. He said the European initiative for the settlement of this issue will be announced shortly and it depends on several points: first, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including their right to choose their own representatives and the right to organize themselves within the framework of a state; second, the need to include the PLO as a party involved in solving the problem; and third, the right of all states to live within what he described as secure and recognized borders.

Chancellor Schmidt said Germany's attitude toward the PLO will be determined by the PLO's attitude toward the right of all states in the region to live within secure and recognized borders, including Israel.

Schmidt said that, in outline, the European initiative is: termination of the current Israeli occupation of Arab territory, occupied since 1967, on the basis of Security Council Resolution 242. He said the more the West rejects the stand of the Palestinian people and their representatives, the more the Palestinians automatically and spontaneously look toward the Soviet Union. We also agreed, he said, on the need to regard Turkey and Pakistan as elements of stability in the area, and consequently to offer them as much assistance as possible both on our own behalf and on behalf of the friendly states.

The German chancellor noted the FRG's positive evaluation of the role played by the Islamic Conference generally, and the kingdom in particular, in regard to solving current problems. He also noted that the talks dealt with the question of achieving stability in the area.

With regard to open discussion of German policy as regards the export of German weapons to various countries of the world, including the kingdom, Schmidt said that at his request the Riyadh talks referred to this subject. He said he briefed the Saudi side on the principles which have been in existence in his country for a long time with regard to this issue, principles which are governed by German law. He said to change these principles and laws, which have been in existence for the past 10 years, would need the approval of the German Parliament and such a decision is not expected soon. He reaffirmed that he will submit all these points, in view of their importance, to the German Parliamentary Council immediately on his return.

He said the economic issues submitted by the economic ministers of the two countries were among the important issues which were discussed at the talks, particularly with regard to the world economy. He expressed his admiration for the kingdom's readiness to participate in solving the problems of the world economy, and his appreciation for the great political responsibility carried by the Saudi leadership which considers itself part of the Third World, the Nonaligned Movement and the Free World, and is concerned for the interests of the countries of the world.

Schmidt continued by saying this constructive Saudi attitude serves the joint national interests. He noted the Free World places great importance on this attitude in regard to solving the economic and monetary problems which occur in all countries. He praised the kingdom's readiness to support and back the Third World countries which do not have oil. He said the kingdom's role in this field is a prominent one, and all Germans follow with great appreciation and respect the moderate and balanced oil policy pursued by the kingdom as the largest exporter of oil to the West and the Third World. He also pointed out the imporance of the kingdom's participation in a much more intensified way in the international bank and IMF.

The German chancellor said the two sides agreed that talks will take place soon between the finance ministers of the two countries or their representatives to discuss tax problems arising from the investment of Saudi capital in Germany. It was also agreed to continue the dialogue between the two sides on official and private levels in the fields of industry, trade and sciences, in order to step up Saudi-German cooperation in all fields, particularly the scientific field. In this connection he pointed out that the delegation which accompanied him on his visit to the kingdom includes four of the most prominent and famous German scientists. He declared that he and His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz have agreed to follow up all these intensified forms of bilateral cooperation.

His Royal Highness Prince Fahd then delivered a statement in which he renewed the welcome of his majesty the king, himself, and that of the Saudi Government and people to His Excellency Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. He said the talks with his excellency dealt with many economic and political issues, and that the constructive and friendly discussions were aimed at the two countries' interests and those of the Free World. He said they also dealt with international problems.

His royal highness added: The Palestinian Arab question was at the forefront of the topics discussed by the two sides, because it is necessary for the Palestinian people to obtain their legitimate rights and return to their homeland, to determine their own destiny by themselves and to establish their legitimate government. It is also necessary for Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied in 1967. He said no just or fair-minded person the world over can deny these legitimate Palestinian and Arab rights. He described Schmidt's attitude as frank with regard to the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland, and to the PLO--the main leadership of the Palestinian people. His royal highness expressed his belief that no one can deny this, and that solutions acceptable to the Palestinian people can be found but it is inevitable that the PLO should be included within this framework.

The crown prince and deputy prime minister said he had reaffirmed to the German chancellor that the interest of the world lies in recognition of the PLO by all states, because it is the main leadership of the Palestinian people and is capable of speaking in their name. He said the talks also dealt with the illegal Soviet occupation of Afghanistan--something which neither sense nor logic can accept. He expressed hope that the fraternal Afghan Muslim people will once again administer their affairs by themselves and that the Soviet forces will withdraw from Afghanistan.

He reaffirmed that the kingdom refuses to become a center of any kind for any foreign power; this is one of the kingdom's basic principles. The kingdom wishes to maintain its independence in its own private way.

With regard to the economic issues discussed by the two sides, the crown prince expressed the kingdom's readiness as part of the Free World to participate according to its material and moral capabilities in ensuring world stability--which is the main aim of every individual and group within the international community. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for the joint efforts being made by the competent ministers of both sides, through the mixed Saudi-German commission which has advanced cooperation between the two countries. His Highness Prince Fahd said the talks between the two sides during the extended and private meetings dealt with many economic issues.

With regard to Chancellor Schmidt's remarks on arms, his highness said the Saudi side had listened to his excellency's explanation on this issue. He drew attention to the fact that the kingdom previously declared it had not asked to purchase arms from Federal Germany, although it would be pleased, as a natural thing among friends, to purchase arms from a friendly country if the latter's circumstances allowed such a transaction.

Saudi-German relations are manifold and cover many fields, he said. His highness expressed his gratitude to the friendly German people and for the efforts being made by German companies operating in the kingdom--there are 161 companies operating in the government and private sectors. He reaffirmed the desire of both sides to maintain these constructive efforts and to work for the development of bilateral relations. He said the two countries wish to repeat such meetings whether between officials or scientists from Saudi Arabia and Germany, in a manner that will augur well for both countries, the international community and the Free World.

The crown prince concluded his statement by thanking his excellency the German chancellor and the accompanying delegation, particularly the West German economic minister. He said they would be welcomed in the kingdom at any time, as friends from a friendly country. He wished them bon voyage.

The journalists attending the press conference then began to ask their questions. In reply to a question addressed to His Royal Highness Prince Fahd regarding German arms and how the decision taken in this connection would affect German-Saudi relations, his highness referred to his earlier statement--that the kingdom had not submitted a request to purchase German weapons and therefore there can be no reflection on the economic and development relations that exist between the kingdom and Germany.

Asked about the European initiative on the Middle East and the factors which have led to the delay in announcing it, the West German chancellor said the whole world is currently talking about the new European initiative which depends on two points: first, the resolution issued by the European summit at Venice in the summer of 1980, and second, the mission to the Middle East by former head of the European Community Gaston Thorn which is being currently followed up by the Netherlands foreign minister. He said certain paragraphs in the Venice declaration reflect private and personal convictions: I believe the Palestinian people's right to self-determination also means this people's right to organize themselves within a state of their own.

In reply to a question put to the German chancellor by the Saudi news agency regarding the superpowers' attitude to Israel's repeated acts of aggression on Lebanon, and his own appraisal of what is going on in Lebanon, the German chancellor said he is not authorized to speak on his own behalf. He expressed his country's deep anxiety as a result of what is going on inside Lebanon and as a result of the military activity coming from outside Lebanon. He called for bolstering the national efforts being made to strengthen the UN forces in Lebanon.

[Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 0840 GMT on 29 April reports: "West German Chancellor Herr Helmut Schmidt left Riyadh this morning at the end of his 3-day official visit to the kingdo ."]

PDRY

PFLO RADIO SEES OMAN AS BASE FOR U.S. AGGRESSION

LD300606 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Qabus has thrown open Oman in return for a military assistance deal. The United States has delivered to the Sultanate of Oman a Lockheed C-130 military transport aircraft as part of its annual military aid amounting to $25 million. (?The value) of the said aircraft is $17 million, and the remaining $8 million have been earmarked for the purchase of other military equipment.

Meanwhile, the sultanate declared that it would receive another aircraft of the same make which would be worth $13 million--also part of the aid for the current year--and that the remainder of the $25 million could be earmarked for other military purposes. This assistance is increasing, because the Reagan administration declared that it would provide the sultanate with $155 million in the form of military and economic assistance during 1982. It will begin pumping it in as of next October. This is no surprise and a logical outcome.

The United States does not provide all this assistance for pleasure and without any benefits. We do not need a great deal of intelligence to find an adequate answer, for the Qabus administration conceals neither what the United States offers nor the award of contracts in which the American fleets and forces in Oman enjoy. It is known that the United States has a direct presence in [name indistinct], Masirah and Thamarit. Moreover, the United States, in formal cooperation with the Qabus forces, carried out extensive military maneuvres characterized by the advanced and technically complicated equipment used. Thus, in return for military assistance, Qabus is throwing open our country to the Americans and turning it into a forward base for aggression against the neighboring peoples, including the Arab nation.

MENA REPORTS ON ABU GHAZALAH'S WASHINGTON VISIT

Talks With Officials

NC291745 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Washington, 29 Apr (MENA)--Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has resumed his discussions with U.S. officials on the armaments program for coming years--the discussions he began a week ago with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, his deputy (?Noel Koch) Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff David Jones and senior officers and officials at the Pentagon.

Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah today met with CIA Director William Casey. He also had meetings with a number of congressmen after meeting with the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. The MENA Washington correspondent has learned that the committee discussed with the Egyptian defense minister the situation in the Middle East and West Asia areas as well as the threats to these areas, over which the committee members expressed concern.

Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah was also asked about the Lebanese crisis. He said that Egypt's view remains the same as that announced by President as-Sadat when the crisis erupted more than 5 years ago--that Egypt does not approve of what is taking place in Lebanon. He emphasized the need that Israel and Syria should not interfere in Lebanon's affairs and that the Lebanese people should be left to solve their problems.

Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah is expected to end his talks tomorrow by holding a final session with the U.S. secretary of defense. An official joint statement is expected to be issued on the outcome of the discussion.

New York TIMES Statement

NC292134 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Washington, 29 Apr (MENA)--Egyptian Minister of Defense and War Production Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has expressed the belief that the United States will meet Egypt's requests for arms. In a statement published by the New York TIMES, Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah expressed the belief that the United States understands the situation in the Middle East and that U.S. officials have the desire to help Egypt.

In his statement, the defense minister said that Egypt is asking for an increase in the size of military purchases from the United States as a result of the threats coming from Libya and the Soviet penetration in Africa. In this context, Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah pointed out that Egypt has submitted orders for more F-16 planes, M-60 tanks, early warning Hawkeye aircraft and the modified ground-to-air Hawk missiles.

The New York TIMES says the Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah has asked Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Presidential Adviser for National Security Affairs Richard Allen that the United States expedite the dispatch of arms to Egypt. He has also asked for approval of another big arms deal. The paper also quotes a senior U.S. Defense Department official as saying that the United States will meet the Egyptian demands as best it can.

Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah today delivered a lecture at the Washington Center for Strategic Studies in which he spoke about the latest developments in the Middle East and Egypt's views on [words indistinct] and the area's security.

Joint Statement

NC292155 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Washington, 29 Apr (MENA)--It was announced here today that agreement has been reached between the United States and Egypt on a 5-year program aimed at developing the Egyptian military forces.

This announcement came in a statement issued by the U.S. Defense Department and the Egyptian Defense Ministry following talks held by Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah.

The statement says that the U.S.-Egyptian talks dealt extensively with a number of topics on the latest developments in the Middle East and North Africa. Moreover, the talks concentrated on the changing threats in the area, how to deal with them and the need to exert efforts to prevent further instability in the Middle East.

The statement says that the U.S. secretary of defense repeated his support of Egypt's military preparedness capability. The United States and Egypt agreed to accurately explore all possibilities for improving the schedule for supplying Egypt with the equipment it has requested. In this context, the joint statement says that the United States has pledged to immediately undertake to take the necessary measures aimed at improving the supply schedule. Moreover, the two countries will continue to develop and implement the programs that are considered necessary for stability in the area.

AL-AHRAM URGES U.S. APPROVAL OF SAUDI AWACS DEAL

LD291023 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Apr 81 p 4

[Salamah Ahmad Salamh article: "Story of the AWACS for Saudi Arabia"]

[Excerpts] It will be bad if Saudi Arabia fails to obtain the arms and the AWACS aircraft which the Reagan administration has approved. It will be worse if the only reason why the Reagan administration goes back on its decision is Israel's objections and protests aimed at stopping this deal, because this would cast grave doubts on the U.S. administration's ability to carry out its policy in the Middle East.

As we have predicted, the issue has changed from that of the U.S. Government's desire to secure the Middle East against Soviet threats--the desire which Secretary of State Haig enthusiastically expressed and which has upset the priority of things as seen by peoples of the area--to an altogether different issue which was not on the mind of the U.S. administration when it took steps to define its future policy in the Middle East. The question of supplying Saudi Arabia with sophisticated weapons for self-defense has become a question of Israeli security, or what Israel and its friends in Congress imagine to be Israeli security. The question that the Israel's supporters in Congress and the U.S. media are not asking themselves is whether the arming of Saudi Arabia and delivery to it of AWACS aircraft and additional equipment for the Phantom planes [as published] will bolster Saudi and Gulf security. The question they are asking is whether it would be in the interest of Reagan's administration to anger Israel and, despite Israel's objections, to seek Congressional approval of the arms for Saudi Arabia.

The battle is now at its height in the United States--the first real battle the Reagan administration has experienced--between the supporters of Israel, who are utterly opposed to the arms deal with Saudi Arabia, and those in the State Department and the National Security Council who believe in the need to meet Saudi Arabia's request for arms. Indeed the battle is now taking the form of a comparison between the importance of Israel and the importance of Saudi Arabia for U.S. interests to determine which party ultimately must not be angered.

The Israeli objections are all based on the claim that the AWACS aircraft pose a serious danger to Israeli security because of the intelligence they can collect on Israeli military movements, but U.S. officials themselves say that these aircraft do not pose a threat to Israel. Saudi Arabia will not obtain the aircraft before 1985. The American crews that operate the aircraft, and Saudi officials, say that they will not be used against Israel. Nobody would believe that Saudi military strength could pose a threat to Israel. Therefore one is inclined to believe that Israel wants something more than this from Saudi Arabia.

It would be a real mistake for the Reagan administration to give in to what Israel wants because in that case Israel would have succeeded in diverting U.S. policy from the course it had charted for itself when Haig began his tour.

Egypt has advocated meeting Saudi Arabia's request for arms on the grounds that to bolster the military strength of any Arab country in the area is to bolster stability, security and the ability to confront dangers, and also because by going back on its decision the United States would lose much of its credibility in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries and would sow the seeds of doubt about any future action by the Reagan administration to establish peace and security in the area. Finally, if Reagan's administration lost its first battle against the Zionist pressure groups in the United States it would mean that it would lose its positive and influential role in the peace process and in continuing progress toward a just solution of the Middle East crisis.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON LEBANON

NC291644 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)--Egypt has called on the Arab states and all parties concerned in Lebanon to join in an urgent plan of action to support the legitimate authority in Lebanon and to help it assume control, end the infighting and the continuous bloodshed, and prevent any outside Arab or foreign intervention to exploit the situation. This is contained in a statement issued today by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on the deteriorating situation in Lebanon. The following is the text of the statement:

The Arab Republic of Egypt is watching with extreme concern the developments in fraternal Lebanon and Israel's attempts to change the situation and its military intervention and violation of Lebanon's territorial sovereignty. From the very beginning Egypt has appealed against foreign intervention in Lebanon's affairs and called for supporting the legitimate Lebanese Government so as to enable it to achieve national accord, preserve the unity, sovereignty and Arabism of Lebanon and put an end to the continuous bloodshed.

With the situation escalating as a result of intervention by foreign parties, Egypt calls on the Arab states to live up to their responsibilities and to make an urgent effort to help the legitimate authority assume control, end the infighting and prevent the intervention of any outside Arab or foreign side.

The continuing deterioration of the situation in Lebanon means more suffering for the Lebanese people and the Palestinian brothers there and affects peace in the region and throughout the world. This makes it incumbent on the international community to move seriously, through the United Nations, to stop foreign intervention and help promote Lebanese-Lebanese and Lebanese-Palestinian accord.

While recalling the initiatives that it had the honor to sponsor and share in tackling the Lebanese situation--the latest being the 1976 Riyadh summit conference--and the formulas arrived at during these Arab summit conferences to promote stability in Lebanon, Egypt asserts that the situation now calls for an urgent initiative with the participation of all parties concerned in Lebanon with the aim of achieving adherence to an urgent plan of action to support the legitimate authority and prevent the continuation of the bloodletting and exploitation of the situation by any side.

REPORTAGE ON 24-28 APR VAN DER KLAAUW VISIT

Arrival Comments

NC241939 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA)--Van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and European Community chairman, arrived in Cairo this evening on a 4-day visit to Egypt within a tour of a number of the countries of the area.

During his tour, the EC official is holding talks with senior officials of the countries he is visiting on the situation in the Middle East. He will submit a report to the president of the European Parliament in June on the results of his talks.

In a statement after his arrival, Van der Klaauw praised the efforts Egypt and President Anwar as-Sadat are exerting to achieve peace in the Middle East. He stressed that the EC wants to play a role to boost the efforts aimed at establishing peace in the Middle East. Thus, the EC wants to learn the special factors that would help boost these efforts.

Klaauw also stressed the need for mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. He described this step as a "vital matter." He said that he discussed this issue with chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat and Chairman of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who received the European guest, said that during his talks with Van der Klaauw he will emphasize the need to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the Camp David agreement, the Egyptian concept and the European initiative.

'Ali said that Egypt attaches great importance on the European role and will explain its views on the Palestinian question and the necessary elements to resolve it. These can be summed up in the issues of Jerusalem, the settlements, the establishment of security for all parties in the area and solving the Palestinian question on the basis of both land and population, not population alone.

The talks between Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Van der Klaauw will begin tomorrow, Saturday, at the Foreign Ministry.

Talks Held

NC252112 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)--Official talks began tonight in Cairo between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Christoph van der Klaauw, the Netherlands foreign minister and current chairman of the European Community, who is visiting Egypt as part of his tour to the states concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Egyptian side includes Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Ambassador Salah Sha'rawi, Chief of the Western Europe Department Ambassador Amin Sami, head of the office of the minister of state for foreign affairs Ambassador Sa'd al-Fararji and Minister Plenipotentiary 'Ismat Rida.

The talks dealt with all aspects of the situation in the Middle East, Egypt's stand regarding the problem and the expected European initiative to promote peace efforts in the area.

MENA has learned that during the talks Kamal Hasan 'Ali invited Europe to establish its historical awareness of the dynamic relation between peace in the Middle East and in Europe by supporting the current peace process in the area.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali stressed that peace requires mutual trust between the parties. Therefore, Europe should build bridges of trust between the Palestinians and Israel, through Europe's strong relations with the two sides, for recognizing the right of each side to exercise its legitimate right to self-determination and living in peace. Europe should demand that Israel adopt measures for building this trust, which Egypt has been advocating, to encourage the Palestinians and make it possible to bring about mutual recognition between the two sides.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali also stressed that Europe should adopt positive stands on various points connected with the Middle East crisis in accordance with international law and justice so that a lasting settlement can be reached, particularly regarding the establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza strip--which the whole world affirmed were illegal--and regarding Arab Jerusalem and its illegal annexation to Israel.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said during his talks with Klaauw that the crystallization of a complete European initiative was vital and of great importance. However, until this initiative becomes crystallized, Europe should continue supporting the current efforts, particularly since Europe has confirmed that its initiative will be complementing what has been achieved in the peace process.

The Egyptian-Netherlands [as received--context of item suggest talks were at Egypt-EC level] talks lasted 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Later Kamal Hasan 'Ali told newsmen that the talks were dominated by an agreement in view between the two sides on the importance of achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, that the European effort must complement, not contradict the Camp David accords, and that the European efforts must join the U.S. efforts within the framework of [word indistinct] of the states concerned in the area. The two sides also agreed on the necessity of solving the Jerusalem problem, that Israel must withdraw from all the Arab territory it occupied in 1967 and that security must be provided for all the parties concerned in the area, including Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. In relation to the Palestinians, they must have their legitimate rights.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained that this represents Egypt's stand which it continues to work for and that Egypt's peace efforts have been appreciated.

Van der Klaauw also said that his talks with Kamal Hasan 'Ali dealt with the Middle East crisis, the relationship between the Camp David accords and the Palestinian autonomy talks, which must resume shortly, the European efforts and the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Klaauw said that "there was agreement in the views of both sides and conviction of the need to act together to achieve peace." Both sides agreed that there must be cooperation in the European and U.S. efforts.

Klaauw further said that there are contacts with the U.S. administration regarding this issue and that we must wait and see what happens in Israel after the elections.

Klaauw added that there are four main considerations that we will take into account when we will lay down the foundations for a comprehensive peace in the area. These are: Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, security in the area and the Jerusalem issue. He said that these four issues must be solved together. He pointed out that "this is Europe's attitude when it talks about these points and tries to find a view to solve them and through this Europe can submit its initiative." He said that Europe must exert these efforts through its relations and cooperation with the United States.

Klaauw said that the Netherlands-Egyptian talks also dealt with the Lebanese events, adding: These events as well as the situation in Afghanistan make it necessary to boost the peace efforts in the Middle East in order to achieve stability in the area.

In answer to a question about Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat's statement on the existence of a Soviet initiative Klaauw said: I know this and Soviet leader Brezhnev said that he wanted an international conference similar to the Geneva conference. Klaauw said that he told 'Arafat that such a conference may convene at the end of the peace process, because the beginning means laying the foundations for peace that we will try to find as well as other common elements among all parties that constitute their real security and safety. We must find this first as outlined in the Camp David accords which laid down the foundations for the peace process. He pointed out that what Brezhnev is doing is that he tries to start from the end and puts the end before the beginning.

In reply to another question Klaauw said that he will visit Israel in the near future and that he hopes to talk with West Bank leaders. He said that he would visit Saudi Arabia, the Gulf and Algeria. He will also have intensive talks with U.S. officials, visit the Vatican and also meet with the heads of the Orthodox Church to learn their views on the Jerusalem problem.

Klaauw said that he will complete his contacts with the concerned parties in June and prepare a report on the results of his contacts to submit to the European Council at its meetings slated for 29 and 30 June.

As-Sadat Talks

NC251654 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat received Van der Klaauw, Netherlands foreign minister and current chairman of the European Community Council in Mit Abu al-Kawm today. The Netherlands ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

After the meeting Van der Klaauw said that he discussed with President as-Sadat the Middle East situation and the role that Europe can play to solve the Palestinian question. He said that he discussed proposals regarding the autonomy. He said: There is the Venice declaration. There are four elements that must be discussed. These are: the Palestinian legitimate rights, the problem of security in the area, the Israeli withdrawal and the Jerusalem problem.

Van der Klaauw refused to elaborate but said that he tried to learn the positions in general and that a common understanding has been reached. He said, however, that no progress has been made.

Concluding his statement, Klaauw said that he would report to the EC Council the results of his talks in Cairo at the end of June to see what it will decide. He added that the Europeans must not work alone, but in complete cooperation with the Americans.

'Ali Banquet Speech

NC252158 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has said that it was necessary for the European states to participate with a positive effort in promoting the peace process, particularly as the Camp David accords and the peace treaty have laid down a solid foundation for a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

In a speech he delivered tonight at a banquet in honor of the Netherlands foreign minister, he said: What the European states have carried out so far, beginning with the Venice declaration and the various stages of the European effort, has been a source of profound satisfaction for Egypt.

He said that Egypt believes that through its huge resources, international influence and its relations with various conflicting parties in the Middle East, Europe can play a special role in complementing the current efforts for reaching a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali concluded his speech by asking the European states to implement their declared stands regarding the main issues in the Middle East because they were compatible with international law and justice.

28 Apr Departure

NC281352 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)--Van der Klaauw, the Netherlands foreign minister and current chairman of the European Community Council of Ministers, left Cairo at noon today for home at the end of his 5-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During his visit, Van der Klaauw held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali on the situation in the Middle East and the expected European initiative to boost the peace efforts. Van der Klaauw was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

PRESS VIEWS 'UTHMAN BOOK, FACTFINDING COMMITTEE

AKHBAR AL-YAWM Column

LD291143 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 11 Apr 81 p 16

[Mustafa Amin column: "Idea"]

[Text] A few days ago the memoirs of Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman were published in a book entitled "Pages From My Experience." They are among the most important and serious political memoirs published in Egypt for years in view of the secrets they contain which have never been revealed before. They are particularly important because the man occupies the post of deputy prime minister, was three times a minister and played some major roles. On page 293 of his book he says the following about some of the previous rulers of Egypt: "I have erected villas and buildings for them. I challenge one of them to deny that the contracting companies in Egypt built a villa for him or for his daughter. I have built a villa for the daughter of one of these people. This villa has a history. Wanting to build a villa for his daughter, he asked about the cost. He was told it would cost only 6,000 pounds whereas in actual fact it would cost 100,000 pounds. He 'liked' the cheap price and so he asked for another villa to be built for his second daughter, whose husband was to become one of the biggest millionaires in Egypt and accumulated a wealth of no less than 400 million pounds. He was told that prices had risen and that it would cost 8,000 pounds when in actual fact it was going to cost 120,000 pounds. I have built villas in this manner for him and for many others. Did he really not know the real cost of the villas while he knew what went on between husband and wife in their bedroom?"

On page 346 he says, verbatim: President 'Abd an-Nasir, may his soul rest in peace, died at 4:30 pm. At 5 pm that day the centers of power began to move. They held their first limited meeting at exactly 5 pm and it was attended by 'Ali Sabri, Sami Sharaf and the Russian ambassador. Their secret meeting lasted over an hour, ending at 6:30 pm. President Anwar as-Sadat, although was legally president of the country as of 4:30 pm, was informed only after the meeting was over. Even so, he was only told that ['Abd an-Nasir] was suffering from some pain. One can imagine how the country was being run: The Russian ambassador was the first to learn the news of the death, while the vice president and actual ruler of the country following ['Abd an-Nasir's] death knew only at 6:30 pm--that is, 2 hours after the event. When President as-Sadat arrived he found that everything was over. He ordered that the body be moved to Al-Qubbah morgue and convened an urgent Cabinet meeting which ended with the issuing of a statement which he read to the nation at 11:00 pm."

On page 286 Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman says that "nationalization was a major mistake of which the whole of Egypt was a victim and for which the people alone paid the price." He also says that "the regime assumed the role of God on earth; it distributed wealth, nationalized all factories and companies and confiscated people's wealth unjustly. These were taken over by thieves who plundered the wealth instead of developing it, or by fools who mismanaged it. Neither the thieves nor the fools cared whether or not deteriorated or closed down for good, for they were sure they would find a place for themselves in another company which they would eventually close down and whose key they would throw in the Nile. The result was nothing but destruction." This is what Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman says in his memoirs. We do not wish to judge anybody without investigation and we therefore hope that a parliamentary committee will be set up to investigate all that has been said in this serious book.

MAY Chief Editor

LD291251 Cairo MAY in Arabic 13 Apr 81 p 7

[Ibrahim Sa'dah article: "'Uthman's Book"]

[Text] A few days ago Deputy Prime Minister Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman published a book entitled "Pages From My Experience" which caused a great uproar as soon as it was released. The contents of the book cannot be taken lightly, for it contains startling events, strange secrets and extremely important incidents--all of which have been revealed by a senior state official and not by an ordinary person who just wanted to say something.

The book might have had wider repercussions had not President Anwar as-Sadat instructed People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib to form a parliamentary factfinding committee to investigate the serious facts contained in 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book.

Some people might have exploited the book in order to add to it from their own imagination and malace, so as to create more confusion among the citizens at a time when we are so anxious to close ranks, renounce malice and look to the future.

The papers published in the Arab rejection front capitals will find in 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book inexhaustible material with which to fill their pages and to which they will add, as they usually do, false and fabricated materials, so as to give the readers yet another picture to be added to the thousands of pictures they present in an attempt to slander and distort the Egyptian reality.

President as-Sadat has intervened to prevent all this.

This is not the first time the president has made such a decision. When Jail ad-Din al-Hammamisi published his famous book "Dialogue Behind Walls," which contained blatant accusations against the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, President as-Sadat ordered that these accusations be investigated. Moreover, he also went to the People's Assembly and spoke on the subject. When the investigation--which was carried out under the supervision of the then Prime Minister Mamduh Salim--was over, 'Abd an-Nasir's innocence of such serious accusations was proved. But for such action some people would have continued to believe the charges and to add to them, in which case the truth would have been lost, the innocent wronged and the wrongdoer absolved. What happened with Al-Hammamisi's book will also happen with 'Uthman's book.

A committee of people's deputies will meet in order to hear the specific facts, definitive accusations and particular stands contained in 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book and relating to personalities some of whom are dead while others are still among us. What is significant is that in his book 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman mentions events before which the reader will make a long pause and place a big question mark. These events concern people who are still in the limelight and who loudly boast clean hands and a clear consicience.

When a person of the caliber and position of Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman reveals those events and secrets, this alone is sufficient reason to investigate, reveal and expose the secrets and to place them before the eyes and ears of the nation. Certainly the author did not invent the events in this book, nor has he leveled accusations against innocent people, or tried to rob the good people of their good qualities or the good workers of the fruits of their work. I believe that 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman felt dutybound to write for the future generations pages from this experience, his attitudes and the events he witnessed and which he influenced or was influenced by. It is his right to do so. Indeed, we would have demanded that he do so had he not taken up his pen and recorded the events. We expect the same from all those who, because of their position, knew what the people did not know. They should record such information as history and facts for those among the future generations who wish to know.

History does not scare anybody and facts never worry the innocent. The people have a right to know the unembellished truth, without any attempt to alleviate the shock that might be caused by the revelation of important old or new secrets.

We welcome the factfinding committee which the president has asked the People's Assembly speaker to set up to investigate the book by the deputy prime minister for popular development affairs. We also welcome the findings of this committee, whatever they may be and however they may condemn some and acquit others. We are neither looking for scapegoats nor waiting for the cow to fall so that we can take our knives and daggers to it. Rather, we are looking for the facts alone and waiting for someone to correct the information we already had and which we thought was correct and accepted as the indisputable facts. This is what we expect from the factfinding committee.

MAY Report

LD291207 Cairo MAY in Arabic 13 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] A parliamentary factfinding committee under a People's Assembly deputy speaker will hear the testimonies of 'Uthman and some of the personalities about whom he has written. The Parliamentary committee, which will be set up by the People's Assembly to ascertain the truth about certain facts revealed in Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book "My Experience," will hear the testimony of Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman and some of the personalities mentioned in the book.

The committee, which will begin its work as soon as it is formed, will ask the relevant authorities to submit the necessary documents in accordance with article 131 of the constitution.

The People's Assembly's General Committee will hold a meeting today under Dr Sufi Abu Talib to discuss a number of topics, including President as-Sadat's message to the assembly on ascertaining the truth about certain facts revealed in Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's book, and to form the factfinding committee. The assembly's technical office has been busy compiling the facts contained in the book into a working paper for the parliamentary factfinding committee to be formed under the chairmanship of one of the assembly's deputy speakers.

An official source in the People's Assembly has stated that this parliamentary procedure confirms adherence to the values and principles enshrined in the constitution and the rules of Islamic canonical law. It also confirms the president's oft-repeated statement that no official is above investigation. The source said that the president, during one of his meetings with the public prosecutor, said: If there is a complaint against the president of the republic, you must come and question me.

Article 131 of the constitution stipulates that the People's Assembly shall authorize a special committee to examine the activities of any department or establishment or any executive or administrative body in order to ascertain the facts. In fulfillment of its task the committee shall gather whatever evidence it deems appropriate and ask to hear the statements of whomsoever it deems appropriate. All the documents and supporting evidence it requests shall be put at its disposal.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 321

JN291730 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)--During the battles of the last 2 days, the Iraqi Armed Forces gained control of a number of towns and villages in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab basin. A communique issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command this evening said that these towns and villages are Qal'eh (Balagh), Baba Eskandar, (Khatunah), Dar Ballut, (Ziran Jo) and (Bayako). It added that after the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab battle, the enemy left behind 352 dead, who could not be evacuated before the enemy s retreat before the Iraqi Forces General Command stressed that the Iraqi forces are able to reach any target they want when the orders are given to do so and that the enemy will not be able to stop their successful advance, regardless of the size of his concentrations and reinforcements. It further said that the Iraqi forces' attack against the Iranian enemy in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab basin in the last 2 days was aimed at inflicting further losses in lives and equipment on him in order to force him to yield to our legitimate claims to land and waters.

The General Command added that Iraqi antiaircraft fire shot down three enemy fighter planes today when they tried to raid our units in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. The following is the text of Communique No 321 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With pride, our victorious armed forces continue to strike against the arrogant Persian enemy in the operations sectors. The following are the results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. By their heroic attack of the enemy in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab basin, our valiant forces stressed that they are able to reach any target they want when the orders are given to do so and that the rash enemy is unable to stop their advance, regardless of the size of his concentrations and reinforcements. Our valiant units attacked the enemy in this region in the past 2 days with the aim of inflicting further losses in equipment and lives on him and to force him to yield to our legitimate claims to land and waters. The following is the outcome of our units' attack:

1. Our units gained control of the following towns and villages in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab basin: Qal'eh (Balagh), Baba Eskandar, (Khatunah), Dar Ballut, (Ziranjo) and (Bayako).

2. The following losses were inflicted on the enemy:

a. In personnel: The enemy left behind 352 dead, who could not be evacuated before his retreat, in addition to large numbers of wounded.
b. In equipment: In addition to what was announced in the last 2 days, the following were destroyed; nine tanks, four armored personnel carriers, two vehicles and large quantities of light and medium weapons and ammunition.

3. Our antiaircraft ground fire shot down three enemy fighter planes today when they were trying to raid our units.

B. Seven were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
C. Five were killed in the Mimak region opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. One field gun was destroyed in the Mehran region.
E. A force belonging to our units raided enemy positions and concentrations in the Dezeful region and pounded them with all weapons, killing 36 and destroying 2 tanks and 1 ammunition stockpile.

F. A force belonging to our advanced units attacked a number of enemy positions in the Shush region, killing 16 and destroying 1 field gun, 1 vehicle and 2 ammunition stockpiles.

G. Four were killed and one observation post and two DShK machineguns were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.

H. Our units pounded enemy positions and concentrations in the Abadan region, killing 22 and destroying 1 field gun, 2 vehicles, 1 observation post and 5 ammunition stockpiles.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to: 442 dead, 11 tanks, 4 armored personnel carriers, 3 field guns, 5 vehicles, large quantities of light and medium weapons and ammunition, 2 observation posts, 8 ammunition stockpiles, 2 DShK machineguns and 3 fighter planes.

II. Our planes launched two raids against enemy troop concentrations in the Gilan-e Gharb region today, scoring direct hits before returning safely to base.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 72 martyrs in all sectors.

B. In equipment: Eight tanks, 3 personnel carriers and 10 vehicles were damaged.

C. One of our fighter planes fell yesterday afternoon during a raid against enemy concentrations in the Gilan-e Gharb region. We hold the Iranian authorities responsible for the safety of its pilot.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 April 1981

PRESIDENT SPENDS WEEK TOURING NORTHERN SECTOR

JN301155 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)--President Saddam Husayn has spent 7 days visiting the northern sector of the front where he held meetings with the commanders of various units and formations, some of which were attended by Defense Minister Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah. The president was briefed on the latest military developments and on our valiant army's tremendous, daily victories in its just battle against the arrogant Persian enemy. His excellency also visited a number of our army's forward positions. He gave instructions regarding the military situation and the nature of the fighting with the enemy. He also remarked on various other military affairs. The president also met helicopter pilots who had performed a successful mission deep inside Iranian territory. He praised their spirit of sacrifice and martyrdom, their faith in the justice of their cause and their defense of this cause with blood.

While visiting the front, his excellency met with a military unit which was about to carry out a combat operation. He issued instructions on the requisites of combat duty and on the general military situation. The president also visited the Khanaqin District and toured the town amid cheers of thousands of citizens, who expressed their deep love of and appreciation for the president. They asserted their readiness to defend the sovereignty of the homeland and to protect its soil against the aggressors' filth. He also visited a citizen's house in the town where he was acquainted with the social life, standard of living and the father's work.

On his return from the front the president visited a number of villages in the Al-Miqdadiyah, Al-Khalis and Ba'qubah Districts in the Diyala Governate. His excellency joined in one village's barley harvest. He also saw off a military unit leaving for the battlefield to obtain the honor of participating in the holy battle.

KING HUSAYN ADDRESSES NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

JN291529 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1223 GMT 29 Apr 81

["Text" of speech delivered by King Husayn at the opening session of the fourth Arab conference on natural resources in Amman on 29 April--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed brothers; It gives me pleasure to participate with you in the opening of the fourth Arab conference on natural resources and to welcome you in your country and among your kinfolk with fraternal greetings of sincere love, deep pride and most sincere appreciation, wishing your conference total success.

Esteemed brothers, divine providence has provided our Arab homeland with inexhaustible blessings and resources. Divine inspiration landed on its pure soil to enlighten and guide mankind, and civilizations and cultures grew on its soil to enrich the human heritage everywhere.

In our Arab homeland and around its central location on our planet, trade routes grew and lines of communication among human beings prospered. Its pure soil abounded with treasures and resources and particularly with oil, which has become the backbone of industrial development and human prosperity. No wonder that our land has become the world's focus of attention and an object arousing the ambitions of the colonialists, who took advantage of backwardness, division and weakness of the Arab nation's entity to spread their control over some of this nation's countries. They also exploited its natural resources to serve their monopolist interests for a long period of time. However, the Arab peoples' aspiration for liberation and unity and their continuous struggle to attain their complete independence were the strong rock against which the waves of foreign aggression were destroyed.

The destiny of the Zionist foray and the Zionist schemes will be no different from the destiny of those previous ones which were defeated. The territory will return to its kinfolk and the displaced people will return to their land since we have unanimously agreed to build our self power and to use our treasures and wealth to achieve this power.

Your blessed efforts come within the framework of building this Arab self-power and as part of the joint Arab economic action strategy as approved by the 11th Arab summit conference held here in Amman at the end of last year. This conference has succeeded, as you know, in thoroughly linking the military, political and economic action. A joint economic strategy was laid down for the first time and the dimensions of the forthcoming decade of Arab development were drawn up and the financial allocations were set aside to implement plans and projects in the large Arab homeland.

This homeland enjoys huge wealth and mineral resources, some having already been discovered and accurately calculated by science and some others being still buried under the earth pending detection, exploration and extraction. If we agree to put aside petroleum due to the fact that we know much about its importance to human civilization, we shall find that no spot in our homeland lacks at least one of the scattered or undiscovered mineral resources. There is no doubt that the utilization of this wealth on scientific and perfect bases will create strong Arab industries and will add new growth to pan-Arab income. Thus, the Arab economy will get stronger, better balanced and more firmly entrenched.

While we appreciate the responsibility which you, in your capacity as ministers, experts and planners, are shouldering, I would like to remind you of the following facts:

1. The mineral projects in any Arab state must be indivisible parts of the comprehensive Arab plan. The economic strength of any Arab state also represents the strength of all the Arabs. Thus, our first duty is to bolster economic integration whatever the sacrifices involved.

2. The exploitation of mineral resources is a result of human efforts, which advance and make progress as science and technology advance and make progress. Thus, we will not be able to implement the mining and industrial projects without entering the era of science in full swing, using modern technology and adding to this technology in order to make our investments more fruitful and of long standing.

3. Energy plays an important role in the development of Arab industry and opening new markets for this industry. While calling for energy for industrial projects at reasonable prices to be guaranteed, we also call for serious consideration of the exploitation of such alternative sources of energy, such as natural gas, shale rock, solar and nuclear energy, bituminous coal and such others so that our coming generations will feel secure in the knowledge that our industrial projects and economic prosperity will continue.

4. The human element is the pivot, tool and object of development. When we mobilize the Arab individuals in the implementation of mining and industrialization projects, we should at the same time provide public services at the highest level possible for the individuals and guarantee for them a dignified way of life that would enable them to benefit from the gains reaped by development. Our main concern should always be devoted to safeguarding the most sublime values, freedom, security, and dignity.

Esteemed brothers, all of Israel's practices have been devoted to disobeying international law and legitimacy, rejecting values of right and waging a war against justice and peace.

Israel's diversion of the waters of the Jordan River to the Negev Desert represents an indulgence in usurpation and a continued aggression against the Palestinian and Arab peoples. Indeed, this diversion offends everything that this river symbolizes, be this its creation of life on its banks or its sanctity and historical, cultural and religious role.

Israel is about to launch a new attack today, an attack that is manifested in its opening of a canal that would link the Mediterranean and Dead Seas, doing so without consideration of international law and the Geneva Convention. In truth, Israel does not care about the threat posed to or harm inflicted on our country, Jordan, as a result of its act.

As you know, half of the Dead Sea lies within Jordan's historical territory and under Jordan's national sovereignty. A qaurter of this sea is an indivisible part of the West Bank of the occupied Palestinian territory. Thus, with this act, Israel continues to expose its hidden aggressive intentions and to threaten peace and security in our entire Arab region. Furthermore, the canal project will constitute the gravest threat to us and our Arab nation and will greatly harm Jordan's economy and development projects.

While Jordan warns of the grave consequences of such a blatant aggression, it holds the completely legitimate right to enlist the help of its nation and to resort to international courts in order to prevent Israel from implementing this project and placing before the world a fait accompli.

Brothers, God always extends a hand to the group, this faithful group, which is working for the nation and for bolstering this nation's entity. Indeed, you and your Arab organization radiate the picture of the Arab economic future and the role that will be played by mineral resources in making this future a prosperous one.

May God grant you success and entrench your steps. Peace and God's blessings be upon you.

KHADDAM, OFFICIALS, PERSONALITIES MEET, COMMENT

NC291554 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The second round of consultations aimed at achieving accord through the legitimate authority began today at 0930. President Ilyas Sarkis met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

During the meeting, they assessed the results of the first round of consultations, which was held yesterday and continued until late last night.

At 1000, Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam joined the meeting and soon afterward the Amal delegation headed by lawyer Nabih Birri, chairman of the Amal Command Council, arrived at the palace. The delegation included Husayn al-Musawi and Hasan Hashim.

Following the meeting, Birri made a statement in which he said:

[Begin recording] We have already said and now affirm again that a united Lebanon that will resolve the issue over southern Lebanon's (?security), the problems facing Al-Biqa' and the tragedies of northern Lebanon and Beirut is the only way to achieve accord among the Lebanese factions. This accord must be achieved. For the first time in 6 years, we see that serious and effective steps are now being taken to achieve accord proceeding from the 14 principles of accord, which are the basis for the talks his excellency the president is holding in the presence of his excellency the prime minister and His Excellency Syrian Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

We in Amal have repeatedly stated that there is no way to achieve peace except through establishing accord among the Lebanese factions and that there is no room for a victory of one faction over another except through a dialogue and sitting down at a round, or oblong, or any other table. We have also said that to achieve accord, we do not need an international table or even an Arab table because most Arab problems are imposed on the Lebanese arena. Perhaps the Lebanese problem is primarily the result of international and Arab contradictions.

As a matter of fact, the accord must begin with a Syrian-Lebanese understanding because we must never give up our historical or geographical location. I believe that the sound course for the dialogue that we hope will achieve accord is through the existing coordination between Syria and Lebanon along with agreements with the Palestinian resistance under Syrian supervision.

During our short meeting, we pointed out that building Lebanon on the basis of competence, equality and social justice was an essential and urgent condition for Lebanon's survival and that Lebanese citizenship should not be built on the basis of sect, farm or gain. The only gain is affiliation with Lebanon as a homeland, land and unity. [end recording]

The Lebanese National Movement delegation made up of Walid Junblatt, Deputy Albert Mansur, Muhsin Ibrahim and Assam Qansu arrived at the palace at 1100 and joined the talks for 45 minutes.

Following the meeting, Junblatt said:

[Begin recording] This meeting is only the beginning of a long road to achieve the national accord we hope for. The consultations are only the start. Achieving accord is linked to several factors, including the Israeli factor, which is basic. We hope that the Lebanese Front will consider yesterday's direct Israeli interference with the Syrian forces and see that it is in its own interest to achieve accord among the Lebanese factions before the situation erupts with everyone returning to his trench. [end recording]

After that, President Sarkis chaired a quadripartite meeting attended by Prime Minister al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam and joined by Arab Deterrent Forces Commander Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib.

The meeting lasted until 1215. The meeting concentrated on assessing all aspects of the consultations to achieve national accord through the positions of the various parties.

Later a tripartite meeting was held among President Sarkis, Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Butrus. They assessed the consultations and steps that could be taken to begin a dialogue to achieve accord.

Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam at noon today telephoned Ibrahim Qualaylat, chairman of the Command Council of the Independent Nasirite Movement, and briefed him on the consultations that have taken place and the optimistic atmosphere that prevailed. He invited him to visit Damascus in the next 24 hours.

Khaddam Statement

JN292040 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] This evening, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, following his return from Beirut, where he held fruitful contacts with the various Lebanese parties.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam briefed his excellency the president on the situation in Lebanon and the results of his contacts with the Lebanese parties. Khaddam explained that the various Lebanese parties expressed the desire to bring Lebanon out of the present situation.

His excellency the president expressed satisfaction with all these contacts and with the desire shown by all the Lebanese parties.

His excellency gave Khaddam instructions to follow up the efforts and contacts with the Lebanese parties to proceed with quick and firm steps to bring Lebanon out of the situation it is suffering from for good. Khaddam will return to Beirut during the next few days to continue his contacts in accordance with the president's directives.

Khaddam returned to Damascus this evening at the end of a 2-day visit to Lebanon during which he held talks with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and other Lebanese officials. The deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs also participated in the meetings President Sarkis held with various Lebanese parties to seek the sound course for achieving national reconciliation.

Khaddam left Ba'abda Palace this afternoon. He was seen off by Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Prior to his departure, Khaddam made a statement to journalists in which he said:

[Begin videotape] [Question] Your Excellency, after you have been briefed on all opinions and listened to almost all the developments from the Lebanese standpoint, are you convinced that the march of dialogue will begin?

[Answer] We actually listened to the various viewpoints in the Lebanese arena. I can say that we clearly sensed the determination of all sides to solve and end this Lebanese crisis. We seized the opportunity to scrutinize the concepts that were submitted by all for discussion and to prepare the practical measures for a working paper that will be discussed at my next meeting with His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis during the next 2 or 3 days. I can say that all have clearly expressed a new desire to end this crisis once and for all. I can also say that I am satisfied with the atmosphere, concepts and results achieved during these meetings.

[Question] From what you have just said, can we tell the Lebanese as of today that the gun can return to storage? Can we give them hope for security?

[Answer] I can say that we are now moving in the right direction and that we must continue this march from all sides. There is no other alternative to achieving success along this path. As I just said, I can stress that we--his excellency the president, the prime minister, brother foreign minister and I--have, through the discussions, put our feet on the right path.

[Question] Is there a fixed date for the practical steps you talked about after your return to Beirut?

[Answer] I clearly said that we would meet to discuss our conclusions, which will be put in a working paper that will be a complete program for a complete stage.

[Question] It is well known that Zahlah has occupied a large part of the talks. Have you reached definite points on finding a final solution to the situation there?

[Answer] In fact, all our discussions revolved around the issue of accord. The question of Zahlah was a side issue in the discussions. I do not want to refer to some matters because, as I have said, we are working for attaining accord. However, there are still some armed elements that are provoking the deterrent forces and firing at them. All those I met are convinced of this concept. The subject is that those armed elements should be turned aside and not be an obstacle before the march of accord. Their actions, whether carried out with good or bad intentions, deliberately or unintentionally, should not constitute an obstacle to accord. In all circumstances, no hotbed can be allowed to disrupt security and peace in Lebanon because this is the most important matter. It is this for which all Lebanese of all factions and political and social affiliations should work because it is linked with this country's future, security and development.

[Question] Your Excellency, besides accord, there are other matters that have to be dealt with quickly. Schools are suspended, Beirut airport is closed and the routes between the two regions are still closed.

[Answer] We hope that the first stages of the process of accord will create the atmosphere that will of necessity lead to removal of all negative results of the abnormal state Lebanon has been experiencing for years.

[Question] Can we say that you will return to Beirut before the end of the week to submit practical points to the Lebanese?

[Answer] We are now not two parties discussing matters. There is his excellency the president, who is leading work for the attainment of accord. My presence is for participation, and any effort that helps his excellency the president and the Lebanese state make quick and serious strides toward accord will definitely receive our support. This is the decision taken in Damascus and by President Hafiz al-Asad. I would like to clearly indicate that the accord is now concentrated on ending the problem among the Lebanese sides. In the next stage, the Lebanese state under the umbrella of this accord will work to rectify the abnormal relations between some Lebanese sides and our brothers in the Palestinian resistance. We are optimistic over this trend.

[Question] Does Damascus have no part in coordinating in this dialogue?

[Answer] Yes, yes, we will help. Moreover, according to our conviction and knowledge, our brothers in the Palestinian arena very sincerely want to end all the abnormal relations between them and any Lebanese grouping because they realize that all must direct themselves against the joint enemy, Israel.

[Question] This means that Lebanon will begin a dialogue with the resistance?

[Answer] When the dialogue on Lebanese-Lebanese accord ends, the Lebanese problem will come to an end. The next stage will then come. It is as I said: a stage of rectifying the abnormal relations between some Lebanese groupings and the resistance because here lies the interest of both sides. We believe, and this is what all should believe, that all guns and forces should concentrate against the joint and main enemy, Israel.

[Question] How long will the process of accord take, weeks or months?

[Answer] The decision is to achieve the best results within the shortest possible time. The situation does not tolerate months or ages.

[Question] In his speech at the peasants congress, President al-Asad defined three aims for Syria's entrance into Lebanon. Do you think that Syria has achieved these aims?

[Answer] This is Syria's aim and political line. Of course, when you go along a certain road, some difficulties may face you and so you have to deal with them. [end videotape]

Al-Wazzan Comments

NC292027 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Apr 81

[29 April press conference by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan upon leaving the Republican Palace in Beirut following talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam--recorded]

[Text] [Al-Wazzan] The legitimate government is fulfilling all its duties toward the current issue that is preoccupying all of us. Since President Sarkis and I assumed power, we have continuously sought to achieve an accord among all the Lebanese people. We consider this the hope and goal for which all sincere people are working. Certainly during the meetings held today and yesterday with Foreign Minister Khaddam we felt that there was total determination by all parties to forget the events that have offended us in Lebanon and throughout the region. I believe that what we heard during our talks with all the parties we met with has encouraged us and increased our hopes that we will reach our goal. We have, in fact, agreed to continue the talks, having been encouraged by the initial stage, in the next few weeks. I believe that this weekend, there will be new (?measures) during which we will prepare a working paper outlining the final views on practical steps to establish an accord.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, in addition to proceeding with the accord process, there are other security matters that are deteriorating. Did you tackle this issue seriously?

[Answer] In fact, we tackled the issue of the accord and the requirements for achieving it. It is natural that the security issue is part of these requirements and consequently figured in our discussions, activities and resolutions. I believe that the result of this is the calm that reigned yesterday and today. We hope this calm will continue as a result of the strong emphasis by the officials in charge of maintaining it for the Lebanese to enjoy after this long tragedy. The criminal Israeli provocation, which came at a time that shows it sought to foil the accord and on the day when the Lebanese people's hopes grew, will not weaken our hopes. Certainly, what we are doing to tackle the security situation will continue because it is one of our daily concerns. We hope that our tackling of the security situation will have positive results.

MINISTERS' RESIGNATIONS HINGE ON ZAHLAH SHELLING

NC291914 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Front has evaluated the military and security situation in light of Bashir al-Jumayyil's report on the situation in Beirut, Zahlah and Sannin and the measures taken by the leadership to deal with any developments. The front then discussed the situation in Zahlah with its three ministers, and evaluted the results of the meeting held between former President Camille Sham'un and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

As he was leaving the meeting, Defense Minister Skaf said: Our resignation from the government remains dependent on the military situation and the cease-fire so as to save the innocent people of Zahlah. Abu Khatir was content in supporting what the defense minister said. Minister al-Hirawi said: We acquainted the Lebanese Front with the results of our talks on the shelling of Zahlah and Hawsh al-Umara'. Our resignations from the government are still in force because they are linked with the final suspension of the shelling against Zahlah.

TISHRIN EXPLAINS SYRIAN MOTIVES IN LEBANON

JN290751 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Under the title "Syria Under Al-Asad's Leadership Does Not Retreat and Will Confront any External Intervention," the newspaper TISHRIN editorially says: Israel yesterday deliberately escalated tension in the area to a serious level, and it and its supporters will bear the responsibility for the resultant developments and consequences.

After repeated attacks on southern Lebanon and after committing the ugliest kinds of war crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, the rulers of Israel deliberately and directly interfered with the Syrian forces working within the Arab Deterrent Forces and sent their planes to intercept two Syrian helicopters which were on a mission of transporting food supplies inside Lebanese airspace.

The serious escalation which the rulers of Israel deliberately provoked in the last few days after consultation and coordination with Washington reveals the conspiracy against Lebanon and the desire to use it as a means of pressuring Syria and the Arab forces which refuse to liquidate the Palestine cause, resist the spread of U.S. hegemony over the Arab homeland and work to foil the Camp David accords, to liberate occupied Arab land and secure the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Syria has no enemies in Lebanon, nor does Syria declare any aspirations in Lebanon. Syria's aims in Lebanon have not changed since President Hafiz al-Asad answered the cries for help coming from the fraternal country to save it from the bloody sedition kindled by the imperialist and Zionist forces. For this reason he sent Syrian forces to Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: Syria's aims are to protect Lebanon, preserve the unity of its land and people, ensure security and peace for all its citizens, help the legitimate authorities spread Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territories, preserve the Arab character and pan-Arab role of Lebanon and prevent the transformation of Lebanese soil into a headquarters or passageway for conspiracies against Syria and the Palestinian revolution.

A few days ago President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed in his speech at the peasants' congress that Syria bears no grudges against anyone in Lebanon and sees the need for continuing the efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Lebanon. The visit of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Beirut to help achieve national reconciliation is practical implementation of what the president said. It is an obvious fact that Lebanese national reconciliation and cohesion of all Lebanese factions around the Lebanese state, legitimacy and unity of land and people are in the interest of Syria. It is also in the interest of Syria that peace and security take hold and that Lebanon remain Arab in heart, tongue and role, far from the designs of the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab nation. Hence, Syria really wants to achieve reconciliation and peace because they serve the highest Syrian interests and the Arab efforts to confront and foil the imperialist, Zionist conspiracy.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria, under the leadership of Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, will not delay in confronting any Israeli intervention in Lebanon and in responding to all provocations. There will be no retreat. The adventurers, who are forcing the temperature of tension up to explosive levels, must remember, however, that they will be unable to contain the explosion if it happens. They must also remember that they are not the only ones who stand accused in the area. The full responsibility for all the possible consequences of Israel's adventures, which are backed by the United States, lies with those playing with fire. World public opinion must know this.

BEGIN, LEWIS DISCUSS SITUATION IN LEBANON

TA291203 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] A meeting has ended in the prime minister's office between U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis and Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The meeting was held at the ambassador's initiative. Assessments of the latest developments in Lebanon were exchanged. The two discussed the serious situation created in Lebanon as a result of the escalated Syrian aggression toward the Christians.

Our correspondent reported that no U.S. pressure was applied on Israel and that the Americans did not present demands. Rather, possible ways to calm the flareup were discussed. The prime minister asked the U.S. ambassador to bring to the attention of the U.S. secretary of state Israel's determination not to allow the Christians in Lebanon of the 1980's to reach the tragic predicament of the Jews in Europe of the 1940's.

'Unanimity' Reported

TA291638 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Excerpt] At the talks between the prime minister and the U.S. ambassador there was unanimity between the parties regarding the negative role being played by Syria in the latest events in Lebanon. Lewis called on Israel to take a share in the effort to calm the situation. There are [word indistinct] for conducting negotiations in Lebanon; they should be given a chance through tolerance, Lewis said.

The prime minister replied that Israel also wanted and was working for calm in Lebanon. However, the prime minister explained the reasons for the Cabinet decision to act against the Syrians yesterday. Mr Begin explained that this was a question of a direct Israeli warning and that the further developments in Lebanon now depended on the Syrians' behavior.

Sources in the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv are saying that the discussion was very serious and that it was intended, among other things, to express Washington's profound concern about the possible results of the military activity in Lebanon. After the meeting, Jerusalem sources formed the impression that the United States was asking for more tolerance from Israel, but this was in understanding of its considerations and needs.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon today, Israeli sources expressed the hope that the relative calm in northern Lebanon had come as a result of yesterday's aggressive actions. We hope that the Syrians took the hint, the sources said, but a more precise and clear evaluation will only emerge within the next few days.

Begin Repeats Remarks

TA300722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin last night said that if an enemy were to stand up against Israel, we would stand up to it and achieve a glorious victory rather than a glorious destruction, as was the case in the Holocaust. The prime minister was speaking at a memorial ceremony at Mann auditorium in Tel Aviv. He also referred to the events in Lebanon.

[Begin recording] [Begin] The same people who only a generation ago were defenseless, persecuted, humiliated, beaten and annihilated are today protecting another people facing destruction. These people [Israel] are the only ones defending these other people. We are fortunate for having achieved this, for achieving this capability and willingness.

Today I had the honor to confer with the U.S. ambassador. Among other things, I told him [words indistinct]: Please note, my friend, and convey to the secretary of state the following announcement: This is a state of Jews. Under no circumstances whatsoever will it put up with any attempt to turn the Lebanese Christians of the 1980's into the European Jews of the 1940's. And further note that the professional Syrian Army--which is equipped with the best Soviet arms--and the terrorists--the murderers of children and women--who receive large quantities of Soviet weapons are acting in the same way the Nazis did, (?killing) civilian population, men, women and children. We will not put up with this; we will not stand idle--we will yet prove this. [end recording]

SYRIA SUPPLIES MISSILES TO UNITS IN LEBANON

TA291743 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Here is a report we have just received: Radio Monte Carlo reported a few minutes ago that Syria today supplied its forces in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' region with 100 SAM-6 surface-to-air missiles, which arrived in large trucks. Our monitor, Mikha'el Gurdus, reports that Syria has since yesterday evening been reinforcing their antiaircraft defense system in the Al-Biqa' region in the wake of the Israeli Air Force's operation. Today the Syrians also installed warning sirens on the hills around Zahlah.

Military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that there is no confirmation that the Syrians have in fact positioned such missiles in the Al-Biqa' region. Our correspondent remarks that should it turn out that they have done so, this would constitute a considerable escalation of the Syrians' involvement and a second matter which Israel will not be able to ignore.

Threat Assessed

TA291920 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Israeli will have to view with the utmost gravity and with all seriousness the Syrians' positioning of antiaircraft missiles in Lebanon, if such missiles have in fact been placed there. Reports on the placing of the missiles have come from foreign sources. Correspondent Dan Semama reports that the placing of missiles in the Al-Biqa' region constitutes for Israel a threat not only to the Christians in Lebanon but also to Israel's northern border. Israel also regards such missiles as a threat to air force planes operating in Lebanon against the terrorists.

If antiaircraft missiles were in fact introduced last night and today in the Al-Biqa' region, this constitutes a new dimension in the arena and Israel will regard this as yet another crossing of the red line--a line which is clear and known to the Syrians. In the course of 5 years of Syrian activity in Lebanon, they have come to know Israel's stand on this matter. If the missiles have in fact been introduced, Israel regards this as an escalation in the situation with Syria.

IDF Confirmation

TA300517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Last night the IDF spokesman confirmed that Syria had stationed antiaircraft missiles in Lebanese territory. Earlier, correspondents in Lebanon reported that the SAM-2 and SAM-6 missiles as well as radar, communications and early warning installations had been stationed in the Al-Biqa' region, especially around the airbase at Riyaq. The Syrian helicopters--two of which were downed 2 days ago--are stationed at this base.

'Serious Factors' Weighed

TA300742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] The reports on the stationing of ground-to-air-missiles in eastern Lebanon were received by the Israeli defense establishment with gravity. The sequence of events ever since Syrian helicopters were put into action against the Christian strongholds in the Sannin heights had been expected, the sources said. The stationing of missiles, notwithstanding the gravity of the matter, is but another stage in a process whose continuation can be expected. Military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

[Begin recording] [Tal] The stationing of SAM-6 missiles is another step in the deterioration in Lebanon. Let us take a retrospective look at the events. On Friday the Syrians tried to realize the advantage of being a regular army over a militia army and put fighter aircraft into operation. On Saturday and Sunday, Israel calculated the situation and made its evaluations. On Monday, Israel decided that the operation of helicopters posed a real danger to the Christians and, following a declaration that the Christians should not be allowed to collapse, it put the air force into operation on Tuesday. Two Syrian helicopters were shot down and the Syrian commando forces on the Sannin heights were isolated from their base. On Wednesday, the Syrians stationed ground-to-air missiles in the Riyaq area and thus crossed another red line. There are those who claim that the next move can be predicted already.

The Syrian objectives are more or less clear: To control the mountain slopes, Zahlah and the Beirut-Damascus axis, as well as the recognition of their status and their aspirations regarding Lebanon and turning the Al-Biqa' region into a buffer zone between Damascus and Israel. With the stationing of the missiles the Syrians violated almost all the rules Israel had tried to make them realize. The operation of fighter helicopters with the attempt to liquidate the Christians was the first step and, now, the stationing of ground-to-air missiles which might pose a danger to the freedom of flying in Lebanese skies. We spoke about the SAM-6 missiles and their significance with the former chief of the Israeli Air Force, reserve Maj Gen Mordekhay Hod.

[Hod] These SAM-6 missiles--surface-to-air missiles--are less comfortable for the Israeli Air Force because they have a very high mobile capability and they can move from one place to another. It is difficult to spot them and their flexibility is high. The significance is that they will restrict the freedom of maneuvering of the air force over the areas they protect. Despite what I have said about this missile, these missiles will certainly not prevent the activities of the air force over the territory but will rather restrict these activities and will require the air force to adjust its activities for a territory protected by missiles. The possibility should not be ruled out that there will be no other choice left but to handle [letapel] these missiles. It is possible to handle these missiles from the air very well.

[Tal] Based on past experience, what is the sequence of events that usually brings about the stationing of missiles?

[Hod] Usually it begins with aerial activity and then attempts are made to prevent this by a counteraerial activity. In this case, the Syrians are apparently not very enthusiastic about conducting dogfights with the Israeli Air Force--and justly so. The other alternative is obviously to introduce ground-to-air missiles, which certainly do restrict aerial activity. If their intention is to station the missiles permanently or merely to flex their muscles to calm Israel's aerial activities a little bit and then retrieve them or whether this is the beginning of a massive introduction of surface-to-air missiles--there are many possibilities. It is clear that if Israel's aerial activities continue to be intensive the reactions of the other side will obviously be in line.

Then an escalation takes place of more aerial activities, more surface-to-air missiles and dogfights to prevent their stationing--and so the escalation heightens.

[Tal] An interim summary: The Syrians have stopped playing games and the rules of the game are no longer given. The ball is now in Israel's court and it is now its turn to clarify what is permitted and what is forbidden, what things it will put up with and what exactly will bring about a reaction. Israel must make up its mind, taking into account the new factors introduced into the arena: early warning systems, SAM-6 mobile missiles and an improved Syrian communications systems. These are undoubtedly very serious factors which Israel will have to work out speedily and find a fast solution for them. [end recording]

Official Israeli Position

TA301229 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has been holding consultations in the wake of Syria's decision to move SAM-6 missiles into Lebanon and the downing of the Syrian helicopters on Tuesday. David Essing reports:

Prime Minister Begin has met with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in Tel Aviv. At this hour, the official Israeli position on the deployment of the Syrian missiles is as follows:

The stationing of the missiles constitutes a new military and strategic dimension. The appropriate Israeli authorities will consider the move in all its implications. [passage omitted on secretary of State Haig's remarks in Washington]

The State Department spokesman, Dean Fisher, has also said the United States has not given Israel a green light to step up military activity in Lebanon. And the United States has reportedly called on all the sides, including Israel, to exercise restraint.

Asked to comment on the statement, Israel's Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that Israel considers in its decisions (?all the) legitimate and sincere concern of all other parties. But, the official added, our defense decisions are guided, first and foremost, by our vital national interest.

Some Lebanese Chrisitian spokesmen have criticized Israel's shooting down of the two Syrian helicopters. However, Israeli officials are certain that the public statements are to appease the Syrians and that the Christian community heartily endorses Israeli strikes against the Syrian forces.

AIR FORCE HITS POSITIONS IN LEBANON 29 APR

TA292032 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebre 2000 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Metulla, 29 Apr--There were artillery exchanges this afternoon between the terrorists and the militia in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon. The terrorists fired from the Beaufort Castle and from the Arnun plateau at the villages in the region of Marj 'Uyun and the militia returned fire.

Air force planes attacked the Ash-Shaykh terrorist camp around noon today, as well as the Beaufort Castle. At Ash-Shaykh, buildings and positions, as well as 120-mm and 130-mm mortars--with which the Marj 'Uyun area had been shelled--were hit. All the planes returned safely to base and the pilots reported accurate hits.

It will be recalled that air force planes this week twice attacked terrorist positions in Wadi al-Akhdar which belong to the organization headed by Ahmad Jibril. From these positions Katyusha rockets have been fired at the enclave in southern Lebanon.

Intentions Outlined

TA291628 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 29 Apr 81

[By military correspondent Sha'ul Stav]

[Excerpt] A study of [Israeli] Air Force attack targets over the last few days indicates that Israel intends to consolidate its declarations of support for the inhabitants of the Christian enclave with actions. Today terrorist objectives in the region of the village of (Ash-Shaykha) and the Beaufort Castle in southern Lebanon were attacked.

The situation involving the terrorist attacks on the Christians in the enclave prove that Israel is actively standing at Maj Sa'd Haddad's side. Last week a certain demoralization was apparent among the enclave inhabitants, against the background of Haddad's illness and the repeated terrorist shellings. A situation entailing a war of attrition against the enclave, people in Israel are pointing out, is a long, narrow strip, a sort of front without a rear. Today's attack by air force planes will perhaps help to improve the feelings of the Christians and make it clear to them that they are backed by an element that both promises and provides support.

BURG SAYS ISRAEL WILL NOT TOLERATE SYRIAN AIMS

TA291215 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 29 Apr 81 p 1

[By Jerusalem correspondent]

[Excerpt] The State of Israel would not be apathetic in the face of the increasing fighting in Lebanon and would not put up with Syria's intentions to take over a part of that country. Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg issued this warning yesterday, speaking at the Economic Club in Jerusalem.

The interior minister leveled sharp criticism at the indifference of the Christian world in the face of the killing and suffering of the Christians in Lebanon and said that the situation had driven Israel to the conclusion that it should be strong and united in order to defend itself and its independence.

The interior minister added that the State of Israel would defend the settlements in the north and would firmly react to the terrorist shellings of these settlements and to their attempts to disrupt the life of the population.

U.S. 'RESERVATIONS' ABOUT AIR OPERATION CITED

TA300724 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Apr 81 pp 1, 2

['Uzi Benziman Article: "The United States Has Reservations About the Military Intervention in Northern Lebanon"]

[Excerpt] Contradicting the assumption upon which the ministerial decision the day before yesterday to use air force planes against Syrian helicopters in northern Lebanon was based, authoritative sources explained last night that the United States had not supplied Israel with any reason whatsoever to assume that it would agree to such an operation.

At the ministerial meeting the day before yesterday in which it was decided to use the air force against the Syrian helicopters, there was a prevalent assumption (even stated publicly afterward) that the U.S. administration had no opposition to such an action because the diplomatic effort to curb the Syrian attacks in Lebanon had been exhausted.

However, last night it was made clear to the HA'ARETZ correspondent that the United States continues to believe that the Lebanese crisis should be dealt with in diplomatic ways and that in such a way a solution to the situation in Lebanon may be found.

The U.S. administration is concerned about the situation developing in Lebanon and it continues to call on all the sides to exhibit restraint and caution. There has been nothing in any position expressed by the administration to hint that it agrees to direct Israeli military activity in northern Lebanon.

Mr Begin met yesterday with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis for a discussion on the situation in Lebanon.

The day before yesterday governmental sources told the HA'ARETZ correspondent that whether the United States agreed to or had reservations about the decision to use the air force against the Syrian helicopters, Israel had made its decision on the basis of its sovereign considerations.

EDITORIALS COMMENT ON 28 APRIL ACTION IN LEBANON

TA291541 [Editorial Report] Israeli newspapers on 29 April carry editorials on Israel's military intervention in Lebanon, specifically on the downing of two Syrian helicopters over Lebanon the previous day.

In an editorial titled "Stern Warning to Syria," the English-language Jerusalem POST comments on Israel's commitment to the Christians in Lebanon as reiterated on 29 April by Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Begin also expressed the hope that the new Israeli intervention would restore peace in Lebanon. The POST adds that "the hope will be shared by all, for ultimately the fate of Lebanon must be decided not by any outside force but by its own people, half of whom are Christian."

YEDI'OT AHARONOT, in an editorial titled "Help to the Helpers" comes out in support of Israel helping the Lebanese Christians. It contends, however, that in order for Israel to continue its aid it needs "at least one pro-Lebanese volunteer to stand on our side so as not to be on our own in this struggle." It goes on to pointedly call on the United States and the Christian European countries to join in this campaign. The editorial calls on the Christian Lebanese leadership to encourage other elements to fight for their case "instead of flirting with Al-Asad."

Reacting to the downing of the two Syrian helicopters, HA'ARETZ editorially expresses the hope that the Syrians understood the signal emitted by the Israeli Government. Nevertheless, it wonders whether the Israeli Government "pondered over the implications of its decision which has already been implemented by the air force planes." If the Syrian Government is deterred by this decision and agrees to a cease-fire in northern Lebanon then the move will pay off. However, HA'ARETZ concludes, "not everybody is as confident as Mr Begin appears to be that Israel can count on U.S. support under any circumstances as its actions may be portrayed as curbing the expansionism of a Soviet lackey."

MA'ARIV, in an editorial titled "The Interference," says that the downing of the Syrian helicopters introduces a new, dramatic and dangerous angle to the fighting in Lebanon. Israel could not stand still in the face of the new warfare methods introduced into the arena. MA'ARIV states that "the ball is now in Syria's court." It is now up to Syria to decide whether the incident will remain an isolated event or whether it will again attempt to use helicopters with the protection of fighter planes. MA'ARIV concludes that if Syria opts for the latter "it would be difficult to avert a serious escalation in the situation and the beginning of an aerial war between Israel and Syria."

HATZOFE, in an editorial titled "The Israeli Warning," also comes out in support of the Israeli Government decision and calls on the Syrians "to realize that, henceforth, Israel will not stop with mere warnings but will also follow them up with deeds." HATZOFE says that the Israeli warning and the actions taken by the government "were timely and necessary" given the new situation created in Lebanon by the recent Syrian offensive.

DAVAR, in an editorial titled "The Peak and the Slope," claims that 28 April was a signal to the Syrians about Israel's determination to restrain their actions in Lebanon. However, DAVAR says, this incident "might turn out to be a link in the chain of deterioration leading to war between Syria and Israel." Israel is committed to not letting the Christians in northern Lebanon collapse under Syrian pressure, whereas the Syrians are not ready to tolerate the Christian bone stuck in their throat. One of the sides must soften its position lest the hopes for a controlled fight collapse. DAVAR concludes by saying that Israelis would be more calm and less apprehensive if they knew that the political decisionmaking process is based "on pure and relevant political and security considerations and in a wiser and more normal manner than that being displayed by the Begin government."

'AL HAMISHMAR, in an editorial titled "To Avert War," says that recent developments in Lebanon do not carry tidings of calm but exactly the opposite. The downing of the two Syrian helicopters was not an "aerial incident" but rather an expression of a new Israeli policy which "contains the danger of escalation and even of war." The government's decision to adopt a new policy toward Lebanon means that "from now on, Israel will regard itself as a key factor in determining Lebanon's future." 'AL HAMISHMAR warns that the Israeli Government's decision "reaches far beyond the requirements under present conditions." 'AL HAMISHMAR urges the Israeli Government "to reexamine its decision and to show utmost restraint and consideration in order to avert a new war which would not serve any Israeli interest."

COMMENTATOR SKEPTICAL ABOUT GOVERNMENT MOVES

TA300935 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Apr 81 p 13

[Daniyel Bloch commentary: "Playing With Fire in Lebanon"]

[Text] For all his 4 years in office Menahem Begin has aspired to prevent war. On his rise to power, a rise that surprised even him, he made every effort to disprove his opponents' claims that the very fact of his rule would invite a war. It was because of this that he appointed Moshe Dayan as foreign Minister, it was because of this that he gave way and appointed 'Ezer Weizman as defense minister against his own heartfelt wish to appoint Arik Sharon. It was because of this that he was prepared for early and far-reaching concessions to Egypt. But, toward the end of the 4-year period, his firm desire is becoming weaker. In the absence of a defense minister there is a danger that Begin is being dragged after the chief of staff, the commander of the Northern Command and other elements who are influenced by Arik Sharon, and that he is leading Israel to the brink of a war with Syria.

There is no doubt that this week Israel has found itself in a serious dilemma: How far could it go in active aid to the Christians in Lebanon against the Syrians without arousing an angry U.S. reaction and dragging in an undesirable reaction from Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat. At two stages this week the government moved toward overaid. At first, it began bombing terrorist forces from the Palestinian Liberation Army who are close to Syria, not to the Christian enclave south of Israel. [as published]

After that, with the Syrian escalation--bringing helicopters into the war against the Christians in the north--Israel reacted by overt, direct use of the air force. According to governmental circles, Israel was given a "green light," or, at least, an unspoken agreement on this by Washington. On this matter, it is hard to rely on what is said in Jeruslalem and we will have to wait and see what will be the public U.S. administration reaction. The assumption behind the Jerusalem decision is that the Syrians will not dare to reach the point of a comprehensive war with Israel. This is because Syria is incapable of fighting Israel on its own, either in the Golan Heights or on the other fronts in Lebanon. It should be recalled that Syria is isolated from all its neighbors, both from those with whom it shares borders, such as Jordan and Iraq, or those bordering on Israel, such as Egypt. Therefore, it is doubtful whether Arab countries will rush to Syria's aid and, despite the Soviet threats, it is doubtful whether the Soviet Union will want to actually intervene, taking the risk of a confrontation with Ronald Reagan's United States.

But these considerations could also turn out to be mistaken. Some of the hotheads might be prepared to take the risk of a comprehensive war. However, it is doubtful whether the political echelons are aware of the degree of responsibility and risk they have taken upon themselves. We must not forget that not all the elements in the Middle East act purely in accordance with the laws of logic, and one match can set off a total conflagration.

Nobody who knows this government, with its ways of functioning and its decisionmaking processes, can sleep quietly this week. If, at least, Dayan, Weizman and Tamir were in it, then it would be possible to have more confidence in rationality. But, among Begin, Tzipori, Yadin, Raful [Refa'el Eytan] and Arik Sharon, it is hard to decide which to trust less. Anyone who saw Begin on television yesterday and heard him over the radio could notice that he was self-satisfied, almost arrogant. He almost does not grasp the size of the decision he has made, its dangerous significance and, if we add to this the chief of staff's clownish appearance, there is your serious government.

In a situation similar in its danger, at the end of May 1967, the late Prime Minister Levi Eshkol invited the opposition leader to the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, a step that led to the establishment of the national unity government. On the eve of the Yom Kippur War the opposition leaders were not made privy to intelligence warnings and this was a grave error; now Begin is also repeating that error.

In these dangerous days the prime minister and defense minister should have convened a debate in a joint forum with the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs and people with security-political experience who are not members of the government: Peres, Bar-Lev, Eban, Rabin, Mordekhay Gur, 'Ezer Weizman and Moshe Dayan. The experienced and collective, varied commonsense could provide a significant opinion about the continuation of the Israeli intervention in Lebanon. It is clear that only the government has the authority and responsibility for operative decision, but incorporating the opposition in the process of formulating the position would prove that the government's considerations are serious and its decisions are demanded by reality. Up to the time of writing these lines, the prime minister has not made any serious effort in this direction.

As stated, the possibility cannot be dismissed that the government's decision was the correct one, but, knowing the people acting and deciding, it is difficult for us not to be skeptical as long as reliable people from all shades of the political spectrum have not been made privy to the secret of the decision, the intelligence and the considerations, in order to remove any suspicion and fear.

IDF BEING EQUIPPED WITH ARTILLERY ROCKETS

TA291642 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] The IDF is being equipped operationally with artillery rockets. This has been reported by our military correspondent. These are rockets produced in Israel. They carry a heavy explosive head and their range is several dozen kilometers. the IDF and the German Army are the only armies in the Western world using this type of rocket operationally.

TERRORISTS EXPECTED TO STEP UP ACTIVITIES

TA300726 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Political elements believe that the terrorist organizations will step up their activities against Israel. Political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that these elements base their evaluation on the debates of the Palestine Council in Damascus. Among other things, it emerged that George Habash returned to the PLO executive after an absence of 7 years. During its debates, the council emphasized that it had rejected the European attempts to settle the conflict in the Middle East and determined that the PLO had no intention of changing its mind. Israel regards this as a slap in the face of the intiative raised by the Europeans who had entertained an illusion about the PLO's moderation.

REACTION TO GHALI REMARK ON COMMITMENT REPORTED

TA291748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Excerpts] According to news agencies, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said today in London that Cairo sent Israel a message a week ago expressing concern over the events in Lebanon. Cairo made it clear that Egypt's commitments to its Arab sisters still supersede the peace agreement with Israel and should a war break out between Israel and Syria, Egypt will align itself with Syria.

Political circles in Jerusalem said this evening in reaction to these remarks that if Butrus Ghali actually said this, he is distorting the peace agreement signed by Israel and Egypt. These circles add that not much importance should be attached to Ghali's remarks, as it is difficult to suppose that he is in fact reflecting Egypt's position in this matter. Israel will ask Egypt for clarifications regarding the remarks of the minister of state for foreign affairs. The foreign minister's adviser and Foreign Ministry spokesman Naftali adds:

[Begin recording] I can only state that if the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs says that for him Egypt's commitments to the Arab states take precedence over Egypt's commitments in its peace agreement with Israel, this is not exactly the commitment undertaken by Egypt when it signed the peace agreement with Israel. it will be recalled that when we conducted negotiations on peace with Egypt, one of the articles that occupied us for a long time was the well-known Article 6, which stated that in the event of a contradiction between the commitment of one of the sides to the peace agreement and that party's commitment to another subject with respect to a third party, the commitments of the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement take precedence. In other words, a country that made any sort of commitment in the peace agreement must honor it, without taking into consideration its earlier or other commitments. [end recording]

ALGERIA

MILITARY MANEUVERS HELD NEAR MOROCCAN BORDER

President Attends

LD281356 Algiers APS in English 1300 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Text] Algiers, 28 Apr (APS)--President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, secretary general of FLN Party, supreme chief of the armed forces, attended, yesterday, military manoeuvres which have taken place in the third military region, with the participation of different air and land armies from People's National Army (ANP) of this region.

AFP Report

NC291145 Paris AFP in English 1125 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Algiers, 29 Apr (AFP)--Military manoeuvres near the border with Morocco in south west Algeria on Monday were planned long in advance and form part of the Algerian Armed Forces' normal activities, the national press reported here today. The ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE news agency, in a report cutting short any other interpretation of the exercises in this traditionally sensitive area, said that they had been "programmed several months ago and had required detailed preparation".

Algerian television meanwhile took the unusual step of devoting part of its evening news bulletin to a long report on the manoeuvres, which involved fighter planes, tanks, artillery and rockets. The report showed President Chadli Bendjedid, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, reviewing the troops who took part in the exercises. He was on board a Land Rover at the time.

Last week, unconfirmed reports here spoke of tension at the border between Morocco and Algeria, which backs Polisario Front guerrillas who are fighting Morocco for independence in the phosphate-rich Western Sahara.

LIBYA

MATERIALS ON AL-QADHDHAFI MOSCOW VISIT, SIDE TRIPS

Commentator on USSR Visit

LD292342 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] JANA's political commentator says that the meeting in Moscow between the leader of the revolution and the Soviet leaders, and particularly with President Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, reflected the reality of interaction at the level of civilization between the Arab nation and the Soviet peoples, despite the ideological differences stressed by Soviet leader Brezhnev in the speech delivered at the dinner given by the CPSU Central Committee in honor of the brother leader. The political commentator underlines the importance of the visit of the brother leader to the Soviet Union, its deep significance and its positive results in the interest of the member states of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, on whose behalf the leader spoke at the Kremlin, and also in the interest of the peoples struggling for freedom and quality.

In this respect, the political commentator stresses the success of the visit, which came at a grave phase when colonialist and reactionary forces are busy building bridgeheads for invading imperialist forces to cross into the Arab countries of Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Oman and Morocco. It also came at a time when the imperialist-reactionary threat against the peoples of the Jamahiriyah and Chad is taking shape, while military activity is being openly stepped up against the territorial integrity of Lebanon, and while the Palestianian people are being annihilated at the hands of the aggressive Zionists supported by the United States.

Viewpoints between the two sides were identical, particularly in connection with the need to consolidate the Arab position politically and militarily, as well as on the need to limit strategic weapons, by withdrawal of warships carrying nuclear warheads from the Mediterranean, the prevention of the building of foreign military bases in the Arab Gulf region, and the confrontation of imperialist attempts aimed at small and developing countries and at creating zones of influence worldwide.

The political commentator underlines the warm welcome accorded to the brother leader during this visit, hailing the special importance attached by the Soviet leaders to the leader's visit. His encounter with Leonid Brezhnev reflected the warmth of the friendship between the Libyan and Soviet peoples and the dealings on an equal footing between the two countries. The talks held betweenthe leader and Soviet President Brezhnev, with the participation of the members of the two delegations, took place in a spirit of complete friendship and understanding and led to positive results.

The commentator particularly stresses that the talks concentrated on the politicl, international, economic and technical areas. The minutes of an agreement on bilateral cooperation in economic and technical cooperation were signed. An assessment was also made of the international military situation as indicated by the activity of the delegation accompanying the brother leader, and the latter's meetings with Soviet officials. The political commentator sheds light on the nature of the leader's visit to the Soviet Union and its positive significance regarding complete sympathy for just causes. He stresses that the visit was a victory for the will of the people of the Western Sahara and will strengthen their struggle.

The political commentator points out that there was an agreement between the Libyan and Soviet sides to strengthen and consolidate the struggle waged by the Saharan people for freedom and to foil colonialist and reactionary plans aimed at impeding their legitimate ambitions and aspirations to impose their free will.

The leader's visit to the Soviet Union also represents a victory for the cause of freedom in Chad, a cause which the Libyan people support with all their strength, proceeding from their principles positions. The Soviet Union attached a particular importance to this: The Soviet leaders expressed to the brother leader the Soviet Union's preparedness to stand by the side of the Libyan and Chadian people in the event of any indication of an attempt to destabilize security and stability in Chadian territory.

The leader's visit to the Soviet Union and his encounters with the Soviet leaders strengthened the common objectives of the two sides in their determination to confront aggression against the Arab territories, to fight colonialism, Zionism and reaction, and to strive to build better human relations on a strong basis of justice, equality and mutual respect. The visit also strengthened the desire to ensure continuous friendship and to develop cooperation.

At the same time, the talks and their positive results deepened the feelings in the Arab people that friendly relations with the Soviet Unionhave never been at the expense of any of their social and political values concerning their independence, their national drive for unity, their positive neutrality and their social and spiritual choices. The political commentator underlines that the leader's encounter with the Soviet leaders consolidatedand emphasized these facts, he adds that the visit contributed to the deepening of the meaning of positive neutrality and nonalignment, and reflected the consistent position of the Jamahiriyah on this issue.

The encounter also effectively contributed to emphasizing the principled positions of the Jamahiriyah on the struggles of peoples. In particular, the problem of Afghanistan was discussed, and the Jamahiriyah stressed its respect for the struggle of the Afghan people and the need for efforts to ensure the independence and neutrality of Afghanistan.

The leader's visit to the Soviet Union emphasized the importance of cooperation, especially in the current international circumstances which are becoming more and more complicated due to the existence of colonialist aggressive policies, enemies of liberation movements and plunderers of people's natural resources.

The political commentator hails the great meeting in Moscow yesterday between the leader of the revolution and the Muslim masses, stressing the deep ties revealed by this meeting and the respect and appreciation of Muslims for the Great 1 September Revolution and its positions of support for the cause of Islam and Muslims. The Muslim masses enthusiastically welcomed the leader of the revolution, showing the leader love and appreciating the zeal of the Great 1 September Revolution to improve conditions for Muslims and to realize their objectives and aspirations.

The visit of the leader to Muslim cemeteries, his prayers to God to bless the Muslim dead and his participation in prayers on the occasion of the burial of the dead deeply impressed the Muslim masses in the Soviet Union.

Bulgaria Visit

For Sofia BTA Reports on the visit to Bulgaria by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on 26 and 27 April, including accounts of his meeting with Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the Central Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, and the 27 April official announcement of his visit, see page C 1 of the 28 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Yugoslavia Visit

For Belgrade radio and TANJUG accounts of the visit to Yugoslavia by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, including dinner toasts by Al-Qadhdhafi and Yugoslav President of the State Presidency Cvijetin Mijatovic, see the Yugoslavia section of the 30 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

MAURITANIA

DISSIDENT WARNS OF LIBYAN DESIGNS ON COUNTRY

LD300801 Paris LE CONTINENT in French 23 Apr 81 p 2

[Farida Moha interview with Moustapha Ould Abderrahmane, secretary general of the Alliance for a Democratic Mauritania: "Mauritania Must Remain Neutral in Conflict Over Sahara"--date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] LE CONTINENT: The authors of the unsuccessful coup of 16 March were leaders of the Alliance for a Democratic Mauritania [AMD]. What does your movement represent and what objectives does it pursue?

Moustapha Ould Abderahamane: The AMD is an alliance which includes progressives, conservatives, notables and tribal leaders. Systematic opposition to the orientation of the team now in power in Nouakchott forms a common basis for it. The present regime is in the process--and this is becoming increasingly clear--of putting the country at the disposal of a Libyan hegemonism, which wants to make Polisario its vanguard with a view to destabilizing the entire region. We are seeing in our country at present not a conventional takeover of a colonialist type but a more dangerous political plan to turn Mauritania into a rear base for the forces destabilizing our continent.

Until 1978, the Ould Daddah regime, which was accepted by the population, sought to oppose this plan, but it failed the day the "Mauritania is the weakest link" theory was invented. What does that theory assert? It asserts that the revolutionary forces must attack the feudal forces in the region. However, if instead of confronting your adversary directly you disrupt our country--you create a new situation. In view, furthermore, of our country's ethnic fragility, Mauritania could well pay the price of the Sahara war.

Our country has been occupied and is in the process of losing its independence. Polisario has occupied our strategic northern region and, as a result of this occupation, our country has been isolated. What is even more serious, Polisario has now put forward territorial demands in the region, and the aim of the union which Al-Qadhdhafi has proposed is to ensure that these claims are met by calling into question our borders which were internationally recognized in 1960.

LE CONTINENT: What proposals have you made to counter this scenario, which you have rejected?

Moustapha Ould Abderrahmane: Our opposition to the military regime now in power in Nouakchott is not the result of any quarrel of a personal nature but is governed strictly by specific political principles. What we propose is that our country adopt a genuinely neutral stance with respect to the Western Sahara conflict by actually withdrawing Mauritania from this affair. We reject any kind of foreign occupation and are determined to defend our country's territorial integrity.

Within the country, we call for a democratic regime which would enable everybody to express his views, for a national consensus and for a situation in which all Mauritanians will be able to participate in the conduct of public affairs. We do not want to set one country against another country. We are in favor of genuine cooperation between Algeria and Morocco on the basis of equality and respect for the sovereignty of all concerned. Once Mauritania is respected in a stable region it will be possible to ensure the stability of other states. But if our country is doomed to "Chadization," other countries will also suffer from the consequences of the state of anarchy which others will have helped to establish in our country.

SUDAN

KHALIL, U.S. ENVOY DISCUSS ARMS SUPPLIES 28 APR

LD282018 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, first vice president of the republic, minister of defense and commander in chief of the people's armed forces, this afternoon received in his office at the Defense Ministry, Mr William Kontos, U.S. ambassador to Khartoum. They discussed the implementation of agreements concluded between the two countries on supplying the people's armed forces with military equipment [word indistinct] in the field of military technology. It is worth noting that some of the weapons agreed upon have reached port Sudan and are now in transit to Khartoum. The meeting also reviewed the developing relations between the two countries and ways of consolidating and strengthening them.

CHAD MINISTER DEFECTS, MAKES COMMENTS IN KHARTOUM

MENA Report

NC292322 Cairo MENA in English 1933 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Apr (MENA)--Chadian Minister of Health and Social Affairs Moussa Medela, who left his country in protest against the Libyan occupation, said that the situation in Chad is extremely tense and that he expected a flare up between the Chadian and the Libyan forces any moment. The minister, at a press conference here today, said he expected coordination between the Chadian fronts, through their collective opposition to the Libyan presence in the country which tries to impose the Libyan regime there through the so-called Green Book by Al-Qadhdhafi, and the popular committees. This move, he said, does not meet with any response on the part of the Chadian people.

The minister said the present stage behoved the Chadian people to close its ranks against the Libyan interference in their country's affairs.

He recalled that he had opposed the Libyan [word indistinct] country while a member of the Chadian Government. He said he had tendered his resignation twice and that with the refusal of his resignations he had no choice but to leave the country.

Asked to give his visualisation of a solution to the Chadian problem, the Chadian minister said the solution consisted in the evacuation of the Libyan forces and the subsequent holding of elections in accordance with the Lagos agreement.

Medela expressed his wish for a solution of the problem through peaceful channels by the members of the 12-state committee prior to the next African summit. He strongly objected to the internationalisation of the problem or its reference to international organisations. He said that if the peaceful solution failed, the military solution would be the only alternative.

Medela recalled that upon his departure from Chad on April 8th he proceeded to Cameroon and on to Nigeria where he held contacts. He said he would continue his tour of the countries, members of the 12-state committee and the neighbouring states.

AFP Version

AB292050 Paris AFP in French 1736 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Apr (AFP)--The Chadian minister of public health and social affairs, Mr Moussa Medela, arrived in Khartoum on April 22, after fleeing from his country on April 8. The former minister told journalists that he left Ndjamena on April 8 under the pretext that he was going to Geneva to attend an international conference on refugees. In a press conference in the Sudanese capital Mr Moussa Medela, aged 25, called for the implementation of the Lagos accord which provides for the setting up of a national union government and the conduct of general elections. The opponents of the Libyan presence in that central African country will first appeal to the OAU to find a peaceful solution before taking up arms, he added.

Mr Medela said that on two occasions he wanted to resign from Goukouni Oueddei's cabinet in protest against the presence of Libyan troops, but his resignation was rejected. He said he remained in the government against his wish and waited for an opportunity to flee the country. The former minister indicated that before arriving in Khartoum on April 22 he stopped over in Cameroon and Nigeria in the course of a tour of some African countries where he had some meetings. Mr Medela indicated that Mr Goukouni did not consult the Cabinet nor the factions before calling Libyan troops into Chad.

The former minister, who is also the chief of the Western Armed Forces [FAO], a party in Mr Goukouni Oueddei's coalition government, said the FAO will not put the Chadian problem before the UN or any other international body. The OAU, he believes, is the only organization capable of finding a peaceful solution to the Chadian problem and negotiating the withdrawal of the Libyan troops. In case the OAU cannot solve the matter, the former minister declared, the FAO would take up arms against the Libyan troops and those of Goukouni Oueddei to free his country. Mr Medela added that in that case, the FAO would join forces with Hissene Habre despite the fact, he believes, that they are basically opposed to Mr Habre's secessionist tendencies, the former minister added.

Mr Medela opposed the idea of unity between Chad and Libya. He indicated that Goukouni Oueddei has refused to show the draft plan agreement for unity to members of his cabinet.

ETHIOPIA

TRIPARTITE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE SESSION OPENS

Ouka Comment

LD300122 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 29 Apr 81 EA

[Text] His Excellency Dr Robert J. Ouka has said that the tripartite meeting involving the foreign ministers of socialist Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Sudan and the Republic of Kenya is an example of mutual development and cooperation for neighboring countries.

His Excellency Dr Robert Ouka, Kenyan foreign minister, said this in a statement at Bole International Airport this morning on arrival in Addis Ababa to take part in the Sudan-Kenya-Ethiopia foreign ministers' meeting, which will open today at Africa Hall.

He said the meeting has come about as the result of exchanges of visits by leaders of the three neighboring countries and their efforts to strengthen the relations between their countries and to bring them closer to each other, adding that the meeting would greatly contribute to developing relations, cooperation and common development among the three countries. He expressed his hope that the meeting would be successful.

On arrival in Addis Ababa, His Excellency Dr Robert Ouka was welcomed by Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs and member of the Central Committee of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia; Comrade Tibebu Bekele, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Comrade Mengistu Desta and Comrade Yilma Tadesse, Ethiopian ambassadors to the Republic of Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Sudan; and by His Excellency Mr F.K. Nganatha, Kenyan ambassador to socialist Ethiopia.

Opening Speeches

LD300102 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 29 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan today renewed the firm position they had already adopted to jointly strive for peace, stability and regional cooperation. The three neighboring countries, which are bound together by geographical proximity, history and culture, renewed their firm position through the speeches made by the foreign ministers of the three governments when the second session of the tripartite ministerial committee was opened at Africa Hall this afternoon.

In his opening speech Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, socialist Ethiopia's foreign minister and member of the Central Committee of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE], who is also chairman of the 2-day meeting, said that the three countries unswervingly stood for peace, relations based on good-neighbor relations and the betterment of people's lives.

His Excellency Mr Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, expressed views similar to those of Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, and said that the meeting would see the beginning of the implementation of the basic objectives of the three countries and greater regional cooperation.

For his part, His Excellency Dr Robert Ouka, Kenya's foreign minister, said that there were a number of areas of cooperation which would further consolidate the (?spirit) of good-neighbor relations among the three countries.

The three ministers said that the convening of the second session of the tripartite ministerial committee, which held its first session in Nairobi in 1973, was a major step in line with the resolutions that had been adopted by the heads of state of the three countries to establish closer links and cooperation between their countries.

Present at the opening ceremony of the meeting were ministers, COPWE Central Committee members, government officials, OAU Secretary General Mr Edem Kodjo, ambassadors and representatives of international organizations.

SOMALIA

SIAD BARRE EXPLAINS GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

LD291250 Mogadishu International Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Apr 81 EA

[Text] During a joint extraordinary meeting in Mogadishu yesterday, the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party Central Committee and People's assembly elected Brig Gen Ismail Ali Abokor third vice president of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR]; Challe Mohamed Ibrahim Ahmad, chairman of the People's Assembly; Challe Umar Arteh Ghalib, first vice chairman of the People's Assembly; Challe Mohamed Burale Ismail, second vice chairman of the People's Assembly; Challe Abd al-Qasim Salad Hassan, chairman of the Political Committee of the People's Assembly Standing Committee; and Challe Warsame Ali Farah, chairman of the Inspection Committee of the People's Assembly Standing Committee.

The newly elected officials were sworn in before the president of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre.

Speaking on the occasion, Challe Siad pointed out that yesterday's Supreme Revolutionary Council [SRC] decisions were based on the state of emergency imposed in the country last October which, he said, necessitated relieving the SRC members of their party, parliamentary and government positions so that they could have a free hand and ample time to execute their responsibilities in rectifying deviations in the revolution's administrative affairs.

The SRC members have been relieved of their former (?commitments) in order to carry out (?the) inspection and strict control, he said. The president added that the SRC has been assembled to (?unite its efforts efforts) for better struggle and to join hands with the country's friends and fight with its foes.

The president called on the Somali people to tighten their belts in achieving national aspirations and to lend a hand to the SRC members so that they can execute their duties more efficiently.

Earlier, the outgoing People's Assembly chairman, Challe Ismail Ali Abokor, delivered a [word indistinct] speech in which he extended his thanks to President Siad for his efforts on behalf of the People's Assembly since it came into existence. He also thanked the Standing Committee and members of the People's Assembly for the responsible and dedicated way in which they have shouldered their national responsibilities.

Challe Ismail declared that the 14-month-old assembly has established links with governments and parliaments throughout the world and has gained much experience in all (?fields).

Mogadishu Comment

LD292154 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 29 Apr 81 EA

[Station Commentary on October 1980 state of emergency]

[Text] The declaration of the state of emergency was necessitated by several issues that faced the nation, such as the successive provocations and aggression of a political and military nature waged by the unholy alliance of several enemies of the Somali nation. This was aimed at destroying the nationhood and the very existence of the Somali people, the result of which was the influx of millions of refugees into the country. Then there was also the prolonged drought that the country passed through. These issues necessitated the declaration of a state of emergency on 21 October 1980 and the recall of the Supreme Revolutionary Council [SRC].

The SRC, carrying out the duties that necessitated its recall, announced that it would hold meetings with all state agencies in order to discover where the deviations had crept into the state machinery. The SRC members made extensive inspection tours throughout the country at divisional, district and regional levels. After their inspection tours the SRC members gave their reports to the SRC and the People's National Assembly with several recommendations of a political and economic nature to benefit the Somali nation.

Some of the recommendations were on grain-growing in the country, revitalizing livestock, textiles and industries, trade and building materials and agricultural development agencies.

The recommendations also included declaring war against black marketeering and encouraging Somali workers outside the country to save their earnings with the state banks in the country.

After the fruitful results of the SRC's work and after efforts had come to light even though the members were having to carry on their other commitments to party and government duties, the SRC members held a meeting toward the end of this month chaired by Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre to discuss this heavy burden on the SRC members, and other political, economic and social matters.

The SRC meeting resolved that in order to correct the errors that had crept into the revolution of 21 October 1969:

1. SRC members should be free to execute the recommendations and directives of the revolution and oversee state affairs;

2. From now on, SRC members should carry out this new obligation with which they have been charged.

Following the directives of the SRC, a meeting was held yesterday attended by all the members of the SRC and the People's National Assembly. At that meeting it was resolved that several members of the SRC should be relieved of their extra commitments so that they would be free to attend to SRC matters. The SRC members are being relieved of their other duties so that they may carry out effective inspection and auditing tours, said SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre.

There is no doubt that these new responsibilities given to the SRC members are (?not) an easy job, as demonstrated by the lifting of the weighty responsibilities from them of party and government duties they previously held.

It is sacred obligation for every citizen to extend a helping hand in these new responsibilities which will clear the way for a faster rate of developing and lead the country and people toward tangible prosperity.

OFFICIAL HANDS OVER RESEARCH BUREAU TO SUCCESSOR

LD292302 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 29 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Challe Col Usman Muhammad Jelle, who is a member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council Social Committee today temporarily handed over the responsibility of the General Research Bureau to Challe Yusuf Ali Usman, who is the chairman of the Health Bureau.

The handing-over ceremony was held at the headquarters of the General Research Bureau and was addressed by Col Usman Muhammad Jelle who thanked all the officers and functionaries for their cooperation while he was the chairman of the bureau. Present were the sectional heads and functionaries of the bureau.

WSLF RADIO COMMENTS ON HORN OF AFRICA SITUATION

LD300624 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 29 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The years 1977--80 were a time when the world was looking at the Horn of Africa with keen interest, and particularly at the western Somalis. This was due to the war being waged by the western Somali liberation forces against the Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers and the interference by foreign forces, led by the Soviet Union.

This comes from a Western Somali Liberation Front [WSLF] information bureau report which was issued yesterday. The report says that the interference by foreign forces had increased the problems in the area and at the same time had threatened the lives of people living near the Red Sea and the Gulf.

After Afghanistan, the Iraq-Iran war and the confused situation in Poland, it can be seen that the Soviet expansionist policy has spread; therefore the issue of the Horn of Africa merits particular consideration.

On 22 April the BBC broadcast a commentary on the western Somali territorial issue and Somalia's relations with its neighbors, and also on the raising of the western Somali issue at the forthcoming OAU conference to be held in Nairobi in July.

The question, according to the WSLF report, is how this issue of the WSLF is going to be viewed and what groups are going to participate.

The WSLF is of the opinion that no initiatives will succeed if the people concerned are not consulted. The WSLF issue came to light as a result of the genuine armed struggle waged by the western Somali people, who are fighting for self-determination.

The WSLF proposes the following to solve the western Somali issue:

1. That the Mengistu regime recognize the WSLF as the legitimate and sole representative of the western Somali people.

2. That the western Somali people be allowed to run their own affairs without any preconditions and that at the same all foreign forces be withdrawn from western Somali territory.

FRONTS CLAIM MILITARY SUCCESSES AGAINST ETHIOPIANS

LD261548 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 26 Apr 81 EA

[Text] In an attack on Abyssianian black colonialist soldiers stationed at (Birkot) in the Dagahabur area on 17 April, heroic Western Somali Liberation Front forces killed over 14 soldiers and wounded many others. Four heroic Western Somali Liberation Front soldiers were wounded.

In another clash at (Aladima), 10 km from Moyale town on 20 April, Somali Abo Liberation Front [SALF] fighters killed 37 Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers and wounded many others, as well as capturing 10 AK rifles. Four SALF soldiers were killed and four others wounded.

In a bitter clash on 15 April between Somali Abo Liberation Front forces and Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers at (Doela) of Yirga-Alem, in Sidamo region, the freedom fighters killed 15 Abysinian soldiers and wounded many others, as well as capturing four AK rifles. The freedom fighters lost one martyr and two others were wounded.

89 Soldiers Killed

LD281248 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 28 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Thirty-four Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers were killed and many others wounded when the heroic forces of the Somali Abo Liberation Front [SALF] and the Abyssinian black colonialists soldiers clashed at Filtu on 12 April. The Somali Abo Liberation forces lost five soldiers and seven others were wounded. The SALF forces also destroyed one truck in the fighting.

On 25 April, the Western Somali Liberation Front [WSLF] forces launched a massive attack on the Abyssinian base in Auareh and destroyed all the equipment, food and [word indistinct] at the base. During this attack, the WSLF forces killed 55 Abyssinian soldiers and wounded many others. The WSLF forces suffered very little damage.

UGANDA

ARMY REPRISALS AGAINST VILLAGERS REPORTED

LD251544 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Reports from Kampala say that Uganda soldiers had killed 20 civilians, raped and looted property in a village which has been the scene of an attack by guerrillas opposing the government of President Milton Obote.

Reporters saw six bodies with gunshot wounds 250 years from the main road which runs from Mukono area 50 miles east of Kampala. Villagers said that nine other people, including a child, had been buried in two graves which were marked with crosses made of sticks. At least another five bodies had been taken to their home villages for burial. Many villages in Mukono were marked out by bullet holes and shops near the scene had been looted. Villagers said that about 100 soldiers were involved in the incident.

Meanwhile, the official Uganda radio announced on Thursday that three soldiers and two civilians had been killed by bandits in an ambush last Tuesday.

GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACK ON MINISTER

LD300050 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpt] Antigovernment guerrillas said in Kampala yesterday that they killed or wounded a large number of Ugandan soldiers in an ambush 7 miles north of Kampala.

But Internal Affairs Minister Mr John Luwuliza-Kirunda said on Radio Uganda that only three people were killed in the ambush of a lorry carrying soldiers and civilians. A spokesman for the Uganda freedom movement [title as heard] said in a telephone call that the killed or wounded soldiers were traveling from the north to reinforce the Kampala garrison.

The movement also claimed responsibility for an assassination attempt on the minister for animal industries and fisheries, Mr Joseph Otim, on Monday. He was wounded in a grenade attack outside the ministry's building in Kampala.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

OFFICERS, OFFICIALS REPORTED ARRESTED FOR PLOT

AB291931 Paris AFP in French 184 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Yaounde, 29 Apr (AFP)--It was learned Wednesday from informed sources in Yaounde that a number of Equatorial Guinean Army officers and functionaries were arrested recently in the wake of the discovery of a plot against head of state Lt Col Teodoro Obiang Nguema. Troops are strictly controlling the presidential palace and access roads to Malabo, the capital of that small half-insular and half-continental state in Central Africa. Security measures have also been stepped up around the telecommunications center located on top of Santa Isabel, south of Malabo.

The same sources in Yaounde indicate that the arrests began last 10 April in that city and in Bata, the main city in the continental section of the country. Reportedly, no senior official was arrested, however.

According to observers in the Cameroonian capital, the arrests are reportedly connected to the veiled differences between President Obiang Nguema and Lt Comdr Florencio Mayela, vice president of the ruling Supreme Military Committee, whose relations are said to have been worsening for several weeks now. The two men reportedly disagree on the importance of their cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Under the administration of dictator Francisco Macias Nguema, who was sentenced to death and executed on 29 September 1979, the cooperation between Malabo and Moscow had been considerably increased.

According to some sources from Yaounde, the hostility between the two men is coupled with President Obiang Nguema's desire to get rid of Macias Nguema's sympathizers, who were very much committed to the former regime and who are still in responsible positions within the present administration.

According to Equatorial Guinean opposition group members living in exile in Madrid, the capital of the former colonial power, 180 persons, including army officers and senior officials, have been arrested in Malabo.

A coup attempt was officially announced in Malabo last 22 April. According to information given then by the same sources, the plot against Lieutenant Colonel Obiang Nguema was masterminded by a businessman, Mr Moise Mba, who had returned home in 1979 after a long-standing exile during Francisco Macias Nguema's rule. Mr Moise Mba had been a candidate for the presidency in 1969. Mr Mba, who has been in Madrid since 26 March 1981, has denied any involvement in the coup attempt, however.

In Madrid, Mr Mba blamed Lieutenant Colonel Obiang's associates and said that the announcement of an attempted coup d'etat was a maneuver to eliminate the opposition.

According to opponents in Madrid, the majority of the naval officers, the technical secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Antonio Mba Ndong, the former ministers of health and interior in the Macias regime, Messrs Pedro Ekong Andeme and Agel Masie, and Mr Carmelo Modu, former Equatorial Guinean ambassador to Madrid, are among the people who have been arrested since 10 April.

The opponents also said in Madrid on Wednesday that the Malabo authorities had asked the Soviet Government to reduce the personnel in its Equatorial Guinean mission from 195 to 15. On the national radio, the Malabo authorities accused a foreign power of supporting the coup attempt, the opponents in Madrid added.

GHANA

ACCRA VIEWS REJECTION OF CLARK AMENDMENT REPEAL

AB281844 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Station commentary by Richard Aduku]

[Text] In Fact, the biggest blow to the emerging Reagan administration's foreign policy towards Africa is the rejection of its proposal to have the Clark amendment repealed by Congress. The amendment, which bans the supply of arms to rebel groups in Angola, is seen by the administration as an unnecessary restriction on the President's ability to conduct the country's foreign affairs.

For the past 3 months, the Reagan administration has not fashioned out any clear policy on Africa, but the decision to have the Clark amendment repealed and other utterances by Mr Reagan during the presidential campaign have been the source of hue and cry and anger of African leaders over the U.S. intentions on the continent.

There is no doubt that unlike the Carter administration's progressive policy towards Africa, Reagan's emerging policy is casual, overbearing and in [word indistinct] to the aspirations of black Africa. A glance at the proposed budget readjustment illustrates this.

The Reagan administration seeks to reduce foreign aid for development by $1.8 billion next year with the figures' cut falling on agencies such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the IMF and other organizations that give assistance to developing countries.

On the other hand, Pentagon's military spending is expected to rise by $169.9 billion by 1986. U.S. support for development efforts in Africa has been cut back while Reagan's all-consuming aim of making America great militarily assumes frightening supremacy.

It is in this perspective that one sees the Reagan administration's proposed review of the Clark amendment. It is extremely regrettable if not completely naive if the Americans see the supply of arms to UNITA as a means of countering communism in southern Africa and there is no doubt that this has been made clear to Reagan's special adviser on African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, during his recent visit to Africa. Dr Crocker, an astute student of power relations in Africa, who has been nominated by the president as the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, should have known by that that the emerging U.S. policy on Africa is not based on the realities of the day. Foreign policy is nothing more than analysis of facts which the policy is intended to deal with. For Mr Reagan to see U.S. economic and political programs in Africa in the context of cold war ideology is very sad indeed.

The extent of Africa's scepticism is heightened by the controversial meeting in New York between the U.S. envoy to the UN, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, and senior South African military officers. The envoy's explanation that she does not know their military men is childish and unconvincing. The meeting has crushed African expectations but the United States should know that the winner, in this treacherous but unproductive game, would not be either Washington or Africa but Moscow.

President Reagan should know that his dream of making America great again will not materialize by sacrificing the interests of black Africa. It is all well and good for the United States if Mr Reagan thinks he can prescribe medicine to countries [words indistinct] the Soviet Union and make himself master of all (?he surveys). [Word indistinct] should also be aware that the medicine will be paid for and the side effects disastrous.

We in Africa only hope the realities of the time will dawn on Mr Reagan and his administration before it is too late. As the Zimbabwe prime minister accurately put it recently, the Americans must decide whether they are our friends or our enemies.

NIGERIA

MINISTER AUDU STRESSES SUPPORT FOR UN NAMIBIA PLAN

AB301142 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Nigeria has reiterated her preparedness to pay whatever price necessary to ensure the immediate success of Namibia's independence. The Nigerian minister of external affairs, Professor Ishaya Audu, stated this while addressing the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement on Namibia in Algiers. He denounced the attempt by the Western contact group to change the UN peace plan on Namibia in favor of a new one being masterminded by the Reagan administration in Washington.

Professor Ishaya Audu then called for generous donations to the Namibian liberation front which was launched at its summit in Havana, Cuba. He also praised the number of measures aimed at further isolating racist South Africa from the world community. One of such is that any visitor carrying a South African visa [words indistinct] should be denied entry into all nonaligned countries.

PUNCH SAYS LIBYA TO REOPEN LAGOS EMBASSY

AB291322 Paris AFP in English 1211 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Lagos, April 29 (AFP)--The Libyan Government intends to reactivate its Lagos Embassy, closed down by Tripoli last January following a dispute over its status, the independent daily PUNCH reported here today.

PUNCH, quoting diplomatic sources, said that the embassy might reopen at the level of charge d'affaires in about three weeks time.

A high-ranking official at Nigeria's External Affairs Ministry said the federal protocol office was unaware of the move, but he added that, since diplomatic relations were never broken, Libya could reopen its mission and would need clearance only if a new ambassador was to be appointed.

SHAGARI SAYS NATION WILL COOPERATE ON CHAD

AB300700 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] President Shehu Shagari said Nigeria will always cooperate with other African countries to ensure peace and stability in the Republic of Chad. The president made the remark in Lagos today when he received a special message from that country's leader, President Goukouni Oueddei. It was delivered by the minister for culture, Mr Mahamat Taher Saleh, who later briefed the president on the latest developments in Chad. The envoy was accompanied by the minister of information, Mr Abdoul (Karim) and the Chadian charge d'affairs in Nigeria.

TRAWLERS FROM POLAND DELIVERED; SHIPYARDS PLANNED

AB300945 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Twelve of the fishing trawlers ordered from Poland by the Federal Government for its green revolution program have arrived in the country's waters. The trawlers, when in use, will help to exploit fish resources.

The Polish ambassador to Nigeria, Dr Witold Jurasz, who disclosed this in Enugu, said an agreement had also been signed between his country and Nigeria for the building of three shipyards in various parts of the federation.

ARMY DENIES MASSIVE RECALL OF FORMER SOLDIERS

AB300942 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] The Public Relations Department of the Nigerian Army has refuted a newspaper report that 2,000 ex-soldiers had been called back to service. It explained in a statement in Lagos yesterday that 259 former servicemen were called for an identification parade designed to bring to book some voluntarily discharged soldiers who had been collecting salaries under the pretext that they were discharged on medical grounds.

The statement appealed to journalists to cross check their facts before publication.

BRIEFS

BENDEL STATE TELEVISION--The proposed Bendel State television is to start transmission in October this year. Governor Ambrose Alli said during a tour of [name indistinct] local government area that the station [words indistinct] will be received in parts of the state. He spoke of plans to provide more new equipment to the state radio station to enhance its transmission. [Text] [Lagos Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Apr 81 LD]

SENEGAL

GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWS DISMISSAL OF TEACHERS

AB292100 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Dakar, April 29 (AFP)--The government has withdrawn dismissal, suspension and redundancy notices sent to 59 members of the Senegalese Teaching Union, SUDES, Education Minister Kader Fall said on television here. The notices, which were sent to leaders and militants of SUDES, the Sole and Democratic Union of Senegalese Teachers, were imposed after the union called a 24-hour strike last May 13, the first since its formation four years earlier.

In January, a government-sponsored national educational conference, at which more than 2,000 delegates discussed the future of education in Senegal, recommended the withdrawal of the notices.

Mr Fall also announced that the teaching of local national languages would be introduced for primary school children and that the government had decided to end audio-visual teaching of French, because the experiment had not achieved its objectives.

A new method of teaching French, the official language, would be introduced pending the overhaul of the country's education system, a project which was being considered by a special commission, he said.